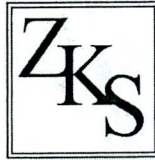


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December 23, 2013



John Hamre  
Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Northern States Power Company –  
Case No. PU-12-813, PU-13-706, 707, 708, 742 and 743  
OAH #2013-0559

Dear Mr. Hamre:

Enclosed for filing in the consolidated MSP cases number PU-12-813 and PU-13-706, 707, 708, 742 and 743, please find an Order granting Trade Secret Protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patrick Ward'.

Patrick J. Ward

Enclosure

c: Zev Simpser  
Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco, PSC  
Ryan Norrell, PSC

55 PU-13-743 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
Order Granting Trade Secret Protection  
Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

56 PU-13-742 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
Order Granting Trade Secret Protection  
Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

55 PU-13-708 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
Order Granting Trade Secret Protection  
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55 PU-13-707 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
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55 PU-13-706 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
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Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

170 PU-12-813 Filed 12/26/2013 Pages: 7  
Order Granting Trade Secret Protection  
Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
2013 ELECTRIC RATE INCREASES  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-12-813

OAH Nos. 2013-0559

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
COURTENAY WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-706

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
ODELL WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-707

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-708

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
BORDER WINDS PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-742

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
150 MW BORDER WINDS PROJECT-ROLETTE  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY  
CASE NO. PU-13-743

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-NG  
GENERATORS  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-194

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
RED RIVER VALLEY NG UNITS 1 & 2-

**ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION**

1. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy” or the “Company”), applied for trade secret protection on July 26, 2013 in cases #706, 707 and 708 and on August 13, 2013 in cases PU-13-742 and 743, pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, and requested a protective order in accordance with the provisions of the N.D. Admin. Code.

2. The trade secret information identified by their application may be offered as evidence for the hearing regarding the company’s proposal.

3. Commission staff, as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-03, have made a prima facie recommendation that the information is relevant for the hearing of these cases and is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).

4. These cases have been consolidated with PU-13-194 and 195, in which I have previously granted trade secret protection and with PU-12-813, the NSP 2013 electric rate case, and will be considered as part of a comprehensive settlement proposal set for hearing January 23, 2014. The consolidated case number is OAH 2013-0559. The information for which trade secret protection is sought is “cost information pertaining to buying and selling of goods and services which has been kept confidential and has not been previously publicly disclosed” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a), and could be of unfair advantage to competitors if not protected or could have economic value to potential suppliers, vendors, or other competitors. The

information is not readily ascertainable by other proper means to such competitors, vendors, suppliers, or other persons.

5. If competitors, vendors or other suppliers had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices for future material or services and drive up costs to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and rate payers. N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-18.4.

6. This Hearing Officer has fully reviewed and considered the various applications of Northern States Power and the recommendations of commission staff, and determines that the information is relevant for the hearing of these cases, that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4), and that the information is entitled to protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09, all as set forth above;


**IT IS, THEREFORE,**

**ORDERED** that Northern States Power is hereby granted trade secret protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09 for the information identified in this Order; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this order shall not constitute precedent for a determination of entitlement to trade secret protection for any information submitted upon any subsequent application.

Dated: 12/23, 2013

NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By:   
Patrick J. Ward  
Administrative Law Judge

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
2013 ELECTRIC RATE INCREASES  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-12-813

OAH Nos. 2013-0559

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
COURTENAY WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
ODELL WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-708

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-  
BORDER WINDS PROJECT  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-742

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
150 MW BORDER WINDS PROJECT-ROLETTE  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY  
CASE NO. PU-13-743

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE-NG  
GENERATORS  
APPLICATION  
CASE NO. PU-13-194

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
RED RIVER VALLEY NG UNITS 1 & 2-HANKINSON,  
ND

