



2302 Great N. Drive
Fargo, ND 58102

August 13, 2013

—VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS—

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 59505-0480

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY FOR AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE FOR THE 150
MW BORDER WINDS PROJECT
CASE NO. PU-13-_____

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
FOR THE 150 MW BORDER WINDS PROJECT
CASE NO. PU-13-_____

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, operating in North Dakota, respectfully submits: (1) an original and two copies of the enclosed Application for Trade Secret Protection; (2) an original and seven copies of the public version of our Application for Determination of Prudence (ADP) and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for a proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) with RES Americas; and (3) one copy of the trade secret version of the ADP Application and CPCN, which has been placed in a sealed envelope and labeled “**TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.**”

Under this PSA, the Company will purchase 150 MW of electric energy from RES Americas at its Border Winds Project. The Border Winds Project is located in northeastern Rolette County, North Dakota and is a resource the Company identified for acquisition through its February 2013 Request for Proposals for additional wind resources. The Project must be underway by the end of 2013.

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The filing contains cost information, contract terms and internal modeling results as discussed in our attached application. We believe that disclosure of this information will provide economic value to potential vendors, contractors and suppliers and as a result could result in higher costs for our customers if this information is disclosed.

As a result, we believe it is important that our request for trade secret protection be granted in order that we can minimize costs to our customers. We look forward to working with the Commission to answer any questions they may have in granting this determination. Thank you in advance for your review of this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Sederquist". The signature is written in a cursive style.

DAVID H. SEDERQUIST
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

Enclosures