



2302 Great N. Drive
Fargo, ND 58102

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT: TRADE
SECRET INFORMATION EXCISED**

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, submits to the North Dakota Public Service Commission this Application for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity [subject to check if needed] and an Advance Determination of Prudence for a 150 MW wind project (Border Winds) located in Rolette County in North Dakota.

Current wind generation market conditions have presented us with a unique opportunity to add a wind facility to our generating fleet that will lower energy costs for our customers and at the same time improve the environmental performance of our system.

The Company has entered into a contract with RES Americas. This project is a build/transfer arrangement whereby Xcel Energy will assume ownership of the

facility once construction of the project is completed by RES Americas. To capture the benefits of the Production Tax Credit, the project must be underway by the end of 2013.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Commission grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and determine that our proposal to enter into this wind project is cost-effective and prudent.

The Company's Application and supporting testimony contains trade secret information. In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, an Application for Trade Secret Protection is being provided along with a single copy of the trade secret version of the Application and testimony in a sealed envelope marked **TRADE SECRET-PRIVATE**.

We are providing the Commission with a check for \$175,000 as an application fee for our ADP Application as specified in N.D.C.C. § 49-05-16. With respect to our Application for a CPCN, N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-03 does not impose an application fee for such an application. However, N.D.C.C. § 49-03-02(3) does provide the Commission with authority to impose a fee in an amount not to exceed \$175,000. To the extent the Commission would prefer that the Company provide such an additional fee, we respectfully request that the Commission issue an Order doing so. An original and seven copies of the public version of our Application are also being provided, along with the following:

- Direct testimonies of Company Witnesses Laura McCarten and Steven Wishart (public version), supporting the Company's Application;
- Verifications for the testimonies of Ms. McCarten and Mr. Wishart;
- CD containing the public version of the Application, testimonies and verifications, and Application for Trade Secret Protection; and

We look forward to working with the Commission in the review of this filing.



DAVID H. SEDERQUIST
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

Enclosures