

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
150 MW Border Winds Project – Rolette County
Public Convenience And Necessity

Case No. PU-13-743

ORDER

August 20, 2014

On August 13, 2013, Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (NSP) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the purchase of a proposed Border Winds Project to be located in Rolette County, ND.

On October 31, 2013, and November 26, 2013, consolidated public hearings were held concerning several cases, including Case No. PU-13-743.

On December 13, 2013, NSP and Commission Advocacy Staff filed with the Commission a Comprehensive Settlement Agreement resolving all open issues in all the cases heard during the October 31 and November 26, 2014 hearings. However, the settlement agreement was silent concerning the disposition of NSP's application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in Case No. PU-13-743.

On January 23, 2014 a hearing was held on the settlement agreement. The Commission issued its Order Adopting Settlement on February 26, 2014.

On June 6, 2014, NSP filed a request with the Commission to issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Border Winds Project.

On June 25, 2014 the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until July 31, 2014 for receiving written comments and requests for hearing. No response was received. The notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Whether public convenience and necessity will be served by the purchase and operation of the facilities.
2. Whether the applicant is fit, willing, and able to provide service.

NSP is a Minnesota corporation duly authorized to conduct business in North Dakota as a public utility subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of this Commission.

The Border Winds Project is a 150 MW wind energy generation facility that will be located in northeastern Rolette County, North Dakota immediately south of the U.S./Canadian Border. NSP reports entering into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with developer RES Americas under which RES Americas will develop the project. After the project is developed, NSP will purchase the Limited Liability Company, Border Winds Energy, LLC, that holds the project assets and merge it into NSP-Minnesota. NSP will reflect the project assets on its books as it would any other company-owned generating facility..

In Case No. PU-13-742, the Commission found that the Border Winds Project is a prudent resource acquisition and granted an Advanced Determination of Prudence to NSP

for the project. Public convenience and necessity will be served by the purchase and operation of the facilities.

NSP is an experienced regional generation, transmission and distribution utility with the expertise and resources to purchase and operate the Border Winds Project. NSP is fit, willing and able to provide service.

Having considered this matter, the Commission issues the following:

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. Northern States Power Company's application for a certificate of Public Convenience and necessity to purchase and operate the Border Winds Project is approved.
2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5841 is issued to Northern States Power Company for the Border Winds Project.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Brian P. Kalk
Chairman



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Certificate Number 5841

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Northern States Power Company, to purchase and operate the Border Winds Project in Rolette County, North Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated August 20, 2014 in Case No. PU-13-743, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

This certificate is conditioned upon Northern States Power Company securing the franchise or other authority of the proper municipal or other public authority for the exercise of these rights and privileges.

Bismarck, North Dakota, August 20, 2014.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner