

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
Advance Determination of Prudence – Solar Portfolio
Application

Case No. PU-14-810

NOTICE OF HEARING

March 11, 2015

On November 7, 2014, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed an Application for an Advance Determination of Prudence for a resource addition of 187 MW of solar generation. The resources would be added to the NSP system through three separate power purchase agreements. The generation facilities are located in the state of Minnesota near the towns of Marshall, Tracy and North Branch. NSP states that the resource additions will provide an opportunity to cost effectively meet the Minnesota Solar Energy Standard and that the Solar Portfolio will increase the overall cost of energy. However, NSP argues that the units will provide other qualitative benefits such as a hedge against the volatility in the price of natural gas making the projects a prudent investment.

The Commission's advocacy staff filed direct testimony on February 20, 2015, stating that NSP's North Dakota ratepayers do not need the capacity or the energy of the Solar Portfolio and that the Commission should deny NSP's application.

The issue to be considered is whether NSP's solar power purchase agreements should receive an advance determination of prudence from the Commission. If granted, NSP would be able to enter into the contracts with the expectation of cost recovery for a portion of the solar costs assigned to North Dakota.

The Commission will hold a **public hearing** for consideration of the Application on **May 6, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. CDT** in the **Commission hearing room, State Capitol, 12th Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505.**

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400 or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary, at least 24 hours in advance.

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