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February 13, 2015

- Via Email and Federal Express -

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

RE: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE
FOR A POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH AURORA SOLAR, LLC FOR UP
TO 100 MW OF SOLAR GENERATION
CASE NO. PU-15-_____

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, respectfully submits this Application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for an Advance Determination of Prudence pursuant to North Dakota Century Code § 49-05-16, for up to 100 MW of nameplate solar generation to be added to the NSP System through a 20-year power purchase agreement with Aurora Solar, LLC, an affiliate of Geronimo Energy, LLC.

The Company's Application 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 supporting testimony in a sealed envelope marked **TRADE SECRET-PRIVATE**.

An original and nine copies of the public version of our Application are also being provided, along with the following:

- Direct testimonies of Company Witnesses Laura McCarten, Kurtis Haeger, and Paul Johnson, supporting the Company's Application;

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- Verifications for the testimonies of Ms. McCarten, Mr. Haeger, and Mr. Johnson;
- CD containing the public version of the Application, testimonies and verifications, and Application for Trade Secret Protection; and
- A filing fee of \$175,000.

The Company is providing the \$175,000 filing fee as required by N.D.C.C. § 49-05-16(1)(b).

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

Sincerely,



DAVID H. SEDERQUIST
Sr. Consultant, Regulation & Finance
Enclosures