



2302 Great N. Drive  
Fargo, ND 58102  
dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.  
com

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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 MANKATO ENERGY CENTER,  
LLC FOR APPROXIMATELY 345 MW OF COMBINED-CYCLE NATURAL GAS  
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 for 345 MW of capacity and associated energy to be added to the NSP System through a 20-year power purchase agreement with Mankato Energy Center, LLC, an affiliate of Calpine Corporation.

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,

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