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December 31, 2021

—VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL—

Mr. Steven M. Kahl, Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building, Dept. 408  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: STATUS UPDATE REGARDING AIRCRAFT DETECTION LIGHTING SYSTEM  
BORDER WINDS AND COURTENAY WIND ENERGY PROJECTS  
SITING APPLICATIONS (CASE NOS. PU-17-362, PU-15-174, RESPECTIVELY)

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, provides this status update regarding the installation of Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) at its Border Winds and Courtenay Wind facilities in the above referenced Cases.

As of today, December 31, 2021, the Border Winds facility ADLS system has been installed, powered up, and commissioned. The Company's ADLS vendor, DeTect, has completed their night-time test flights, and submitted their commissioning certificate demonstrating that the radar system is functioning. However, following the commissioning, five of the fifty-five light beacons ceased communicating with the ADLS radar system. The beacons (lights) on 50 of the 55 towers are responsive to ADLS commands and are cycling on and off as expected. The remaining beacons require further troubleshooting of their communications link with the central radar system, requiring physical access to the relevant towers. Until this troubleshooting is complete, and these beacons are operating reliably, only these five towers will remain illuminated (default blinking mode) throughout the night. This troubleshooting has been hampered by difficult weather conditions in the area (high winds, extreme cold). Weather permitting, we expect to resolve the issues with the remaining five towers soon.

With respect to the Courtenay Wind facility, the installation of the ADLS equipment was completed on December 17, 2021, the system was powered up on December 18, 2021, and commissioning commenced on December 20, 2021. However, during DeTect's commissioning of the system the beacons did not respond to the on/off commands from the radar unit. While troubleshooting the issue, it was discovered that each of the existing beacons did not have the two wires that controlled the "inhibit mode." This wiring is needed in the beacons and control boards within each turbine tower to ensure they all respond properly to the central radar unit. This was not an issue at the Border Winds facility because, unlike the lights at the Courtenay

facility, the original lights at that facility were known to be incompatible with DeTect's ADLS system and thus were upgraded with compatible technology this fall.

This wiring work requires technicians to climb to the top of each of the 63 turbines approved for lights by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). DeTect has started this work and has completed wiring changes on 18 towers, which are now working as expected. However, due to very high winds and sub-zero temperatures this past week, much of the work had to be postponed until next week to ensure the safety of workers. Fortunately, all materials needed to complete the work are on site as well as five two-person teams of tower climbers trained to perform the work. Assuming cooperative weather, we anticipate the needed wiring, commissioning, and testing will be completed by January 15, 2022. Until that time, the beacons yet to be re-wired will operate in the default blinking mode.

We will update the Commission when all the lights are functioning properly at both sites.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this notification. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Sederquist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DAVID H. SEDERQUIST  
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

cc: Pat Fahn  
Brian Johnson