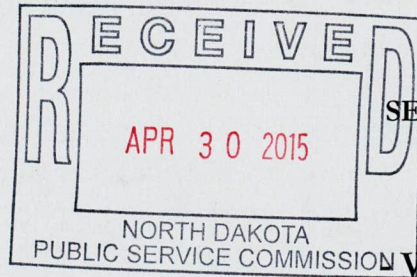


414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

April 30, 2015



**PUBLIC DOCUMENT: TRADE
SECRET INFORMATION EXCISED
— PUBLIC DATA —**

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: NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY'S REQUESTS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE 200 MW COURTENAY WIND FARM PROJECT AND TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATE OF SITE COMPATIBILITY NUMBER 36
CASE NOS. PU-15-____ AND PU-15-_____.

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (the Company), submits to the North Dakota Public Service Commission this Application for a Certificate of Convenience and Public Necessity for the 200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm, and for Transfer of Certificate of Site Compatibility Number 36 from Courtenay Wind Farm LLC to Xcel Energy.

The 200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm Project (Courtenay Project) is located in Stutsman County, North Dakota, and was identified for acquisition as a power purchase agreement (PPA) through the Company's February 2013 Request for Proposals for additional wind resources. The Company previously requested an Advance Determination of Prudence for the PPA in July 2013, and received the Determination on February 24, 2014.¹ No Certificate of Public Convenience and

¹ *Northern States Power Company Advanced Determination of Prudence – Courtenay Wind Project Application*, NDPSC Case. No. PU-13-706, ORDER ADOPTING SETTLEMENT, Revised Second Amended Comprehensive Settlement Agreement at 22 (Feb. 26, 2014).

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT: TRADE SECRET INFORMATION EXCISED
- PUBLIC DATA -**

Necessity was required for the PPA because Courtenay Wind Farm LLC, the owner of the Project, is not a public utility.

Due to changed circumstances described in the enclosed Applications, the Company seeks to purchase the Courtenay Project from Courtenay Wind Farm LLC and develop, construct, own, and operate it. As a public utility operating in North Dakota, the Company respectfully requests a Certificate of Convenience and Public Necessity for the Project and transfer of the Certificate of Site Compatibility to the Company.

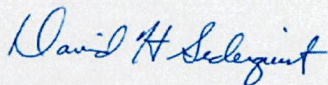
The Company's Application contains trade secret information. In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, an Application for Trade Secret Protection is being provided along with a single copy of the trade secret version of the Application and supporting testimony in a sealed envelope marked **TRADE SECRET-PRIVATE**.

An original and nine copies each of the public versions of our Applications are also being provided, along with the following:

- CD containing the public versions of the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, Application for Transfer of the Certificate of Site Compatibility, and for Application for Trade Secret Protection; and
- To expedite the proceedings, a filing fee of \$175,000, as provided for in N.D.C.C. § 49-03-02.

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

Sincerely,



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