

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm
Public Convenience and Necessity

Case No. PU-15-175

Northern States Power Company
Advance Prudence – 200 MW Courtenay Wind Farm
Application

Case No. PU-15-181

Northern States Power Company
Discontinue Prudence – Courtenay Wind Farm PP
Application

Case No. PU-15-183

ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

1. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy” or the “Company”), applied for trade secret protection on April 30, 2015 and May 6, 2015, pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, and requested a protective order in accordance with the provisions of the N.D. Admin. Code.

2. The trade secret information identified by their application may be offered as evidence for the hearing regarding the company’s proposal to add a 200 MW wind farm known as Courtenay Wind Project north of Jamestown, North Dakota.

3. Commission staff on July 10, 2015, have made a prima facie recommendation that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).

4. The information for which trade secret protection is sought is “cost information pertaining to buying and selling of goods and services which has been kept confidential and has not been previously publicly disclosed” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a), and could be of unfair advantage to competitors if not protected or

could have economic value to potential suppliers, vendors, or other competitors. The information is not readily ascertainable by other proper means to such competitors, vendors, suppliers, or other persons.

5. If competitors, vendors or other suppliers had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices for future material or services and drive up costs to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and rate payers. N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-18.4.

6. This Hearing Officer has fully reviewed and considered the application of Northern States Power and the recommendations of commission staff, and determines that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case, that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4), and that the information is entitled to protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09, all as set forth above;

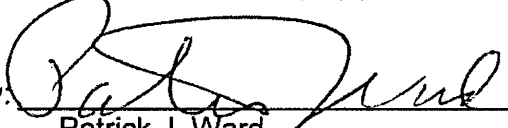
IT IS, THEREFORE,

ORDERED that Northern States Power is hereby granted trade secret protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09 for the information identified in this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that this order shall not constitute precedent for a determination of entitlement to trade secret protection for any information submitted upon any subsequent application.

Dated: July 21, 2015

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By: 
Patrick J. Ward
Administrative Law Judge

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