

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Northern States Power Company
Deferred Accounting - Fargo MGP Project
Application**

Case No. PU-15-514

STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATIONS FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

On 6 November 2018 and 7 February 2019, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed Applications for Protection of Information (Applications) to protect certain information in the captioned case.

In NSP's Applications, NSP seeks protection for information related to confidential settlement agreements with the NSP's insurers and a confidential settlement and purchase agreement with Heartland, Inc.

NSP's application states that this information is trade secret because it is information that "(1) [d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (2) [i]s the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain the secrecy of the information," as provided in North Dakota Century Code Section 44-04-18.4(2)(d).

NSP claims the information could have economic value to other entities, including insurance companies, with whom the company is involved in litigation or other transactions, by using the information against the company. The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by NSP and the company has requested protection of information for all its regulatory filings.

Staff has reviewed the information and recommends that the Commission approve the Applications.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2019.



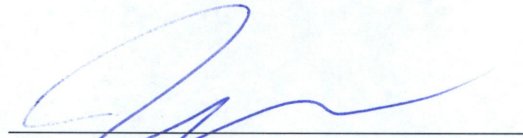
John Schuh
Legal Counsel
North Dakota Public Service Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing **STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION** was, on 20 May 2019, served on the following by email:

Dave Sederquist (dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com)

Dated this 20th day of May 2019.



John Schuh
Legal Counsel