

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Northern States Power Company
Electric Metering and Testing Modifications
Tariff**

Case No. PU-15-633

**Order on Electric Metering and Testing Modifications Tariff
December 16, 2015**

Preliminary Statement

On August 10, 2015, Northern States Power Company filed to modify their tariff to reflect changes to their electric meter testing program. Under the current program, the Company annually tests a sample of residential meters. Residential meters comprise approximately 93 percent of the Company's meters. Currently, the remaining meters are not sample tested but tested every 8 to 16 years. The modification proposed by the Company would move all but about 80 non-residential meters to annual sample testing. On December 1st and 9th, the Company submitted revised tariffs to reflect suggested language changes by Staff.

The Company's sample testing program is conducted in conformity with the American National Standards Institute Electric Meters Code for Electric Metering (ANSI C12.1). Meters are grouped together in lots using selection criteria including meter manufacturer, model and other attributes. Annually, meters are randomly selected from each lot for testing, removed from the field and tested in the Minneapolis meter testing shop. The test results are analyzed in accordance with tables in ANSI/ASQ Z1.9 *Sample Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variable for Percent Nonconforming, using inspection Level II with an acceptable qualify level of 2.5 or better and specification limits of +/-2%*.

Under the current periodic testing process, the number of non-residential meters tested in any one year fluctuates due to the number of meters needing testing in that year. The Company indicates with the current program, they would need to test 15 meters in 2016 and 2,287 meters in 2017. By moving all but the 80 transformer-rated, poly-phase meters to annual testing, the Company would eliminate the seesaw effect from the current program. The Company proposes to test the transformer-rated meters annually because of the complexity and high kWh usage of the facilities connected to these meters.

The revised program will provide a good basis for accurate meters and may even improve on the accuracy and reduce testing costs. In addition, the testing workload will be spread out evenly from one year to the next.

Order

The Commission Orders the proposed tariff revisions are: APPROVED

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Randy Christmann
Commissioner



Julie Fedorchak
Chairman



Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner