

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Northern States Power Company
230 kV Transmission Line – Ward & McHenry Counties
Public Convenience and Necessity**

Case No. PU-16-644

ORDER

January 4, 2017

On September 15, 2016, Northern States Power Company (NSP dba Xcel Energy) filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a Minot Load Serving Project consisting of a new Magic City Substation and approximately 20 miles of new 230 kV transmission line between the new substation and Great River Energy's existing McHenry Substation, and associated facilities, all in Ward and McHenry Counties of North Dakota.

On October 5, 2016 the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for hearing, which provided until November 14, 2016 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No response was received. The notice identified the following issues to be considered in this matter:

1. Whether public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.
2. Whether the applicant is fit, willing, and able to provide service.

On November 1, 2016 The Commission discussed these matters with NSP and Commission staff during an informal hearing.

NSP is an investor-owned utility headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, authorized to provide public utility service in North Dakota under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission. NSP provides electric service to approximately 90,000 retail electric customers in and around Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot, North Dakota. NSP owns and operates a multi-state electric generation, transmission and distribution system with more than 250 miles of transmission lines and 14 substations in North Dakota. NSP is fit, willing and able to provide service.

NSP reports load growth in the Minot area is causing low voltages and transformer overloads under certain operating conditions as existing transmission infrastructure ages and reaches operating capacity. NSP and Basin Electric Power Cooperative conducted a load serving study that indicates the proposed Minot Load Serving Project to be the best overall solution. Public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.

Order

The Commission Orders:

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1. NSP's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct, and operate, the Minot Load Serving Project is GRANTED.
2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5899 is issued to NSP to construct and operate the Minot Load Serving Project.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner


Randy Christmann
Chairman
Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Certificate Number 5899

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Northern States Power Company to construct and operate a new Magic City Substation and approximately 20 miles of new 230 kV transmission line between the new substation and Great River Energy's existing McHenry Substation, and associated facilities, all in Ward and McHenry Counties of North Dakota

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated January 4, 2017 in Case No. PU-16-644, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

This certificate is conditioned upon Northern States Power Company securing the franchise or other authority of the proper municipal or other public authority for the exercise of these rights and privileges.

Bismarck, North Dakota, January 4, 2017.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner