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April 30, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Steven M. Kahl, Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: QUARTERLY CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT  
1,550 MW WIND PORTFOLIO & 304.2 MW DAKOTA RANGE PROJECT  
CASE NOS. PU-17-120 AND PU-17-372

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, provides the following quarterly construction progress report in compliance with the North Dakota Public Service Commission's December 6, 2018 ORDER ON SETTLEMENT in the above-referenced Advanced Determination of Prudence (ADP) cases.

Order point 2 states:

- NSP shall file quarterly construction progress reports until the last project is in service, indicating the development status of each project.*

### **Q1 2020 REPORT**

Below is an update on the activity for each approved project during January, February and March of 2020. The Company is continually monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect it could have on the projects that have not reached commercial operation. We will keep the Commission updated on any COVID-19 pandemic impacts in these quarterly filings.

#### **Foxtail (150 MW, ND)**

The project achieved commercial operation in December 2019. Installation of the Company's first wind resource Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) was hampered by adverse weather conditions during much of November 2019 – February 2020, making it necessary for ADLS vendor TERMA to develop and install a work shelter on the radar tower so that technicians could safely and effectively wire the

system notwithstanding the cold weather. TERMA completed physical installation of the ADLS equipment on February 27, 2020. Site Acceptance Testing of the ADLS and 67 of 68 aviation lights was completed by TERMA on March 31, 2020. At that time, the ADLS was functioning properly (i.e., no red lights blinking unless an aircraft entered the radar zone) for all but one of the turbines on site.<sup>1</sup>

**Blazing Star I (200 MW, MN)**

The project achieved commercial operation on April 3, 2020.

Below are the Q1 2020 completed milestones:

01/25/2020	Second main power transformer delivered to the job site.
02/08/2020	Second main power transformer commissioned.
03/31/2020	90 of 100 turbines fully commissioned.

**Blazing Star II (200 MW, MN)**

The project is on track for commercial operation in December 2020. The project team is monitoring equipment supply risks as a result of COVID-19. Project construction is expected to commence in early May.

Below are the Q1 2020 completed milestones:

01/08/2020	Amended Site Permit approval from State of Minnesota.
03/23/2020	Pre-Construction Meeting with Department of Commerce.
03/12/2020	Issued Notice to Proceed to Mortenson for Balance of Plant Contract.

**Freeborn (200 MW, MN & IA)**

The site permitting approval process has taken longer than either Invenergy or the Company anticipated. As a result, we experienced delays in our contracting that exposed us to additional costs. This has also resulted in scheduling-related cost pressures on the project. Several construction activities scheduled to occur in 2019 had to shift back to 2020 due to the absence of an approved site permit. That said, we continue to believe the project is on track for a commercial operation date of December 2020.

Below are the Q1 2020 completed milestones:

03/12/2020	Xcel Energy filed the final pre-construction compliance filings for the Site Permit.
03/18/2020	The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued letter approving transmission line pre-construction compliance filings.
03/31/2020	Amended Site Permit approval written Order issued by MPUC.

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<sup>1</sup> The remaining turbine light control module required additional time to address technical issues impacting communication between the module and the radar tower. This remaining light operated in the default blinking mode until the issue was resolved on April 7.

**Crowned Ridge I (200 MW, SD, Power Purchase Agreement)**

Crowned Ridge I achieved commercial operation on January 10, 2020.

**Crowned Ridge II (200 MW, SD, Build-Own-Transfer)**

The project is currently forecasted for commercial operation in fourth quarter 2020. This represents a shift in our initial expectation regarding commercial operation (from fourth quarter 2019). The size of this project has been reduced from 300 MW to 200 MW due to extensive interconnection cost assessments.

Below is the Q1 2020 completed milestone:

03/18/2020	The South Dakota Public Utility Commission verbally approved the permit for the construction of the Crowned Ridge II Wind Project.
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**Lake Benton II (100 MW, MN, Build-Own-Transfer)**

The commercial operation date for Lake Benton II was November 15, 2019.

**Glen Ullin Energy Center, previously known as Clean Energy #1 (106.08 MW, ND, Power Purchase Agreement)**

The Glen Ullin Energy Center Project achieved commercial operation on December 19, 2019.

**Dakota Range I and II (302.4 MW, SD)**

The project is on track for commercial operation in December 2021.

Below are the Q1 2020 completed milestones:

02/03/2020	Began Geotech analysis at selected sites within the project boundary.
03/06/2020	Issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the BOP contract for the project.

Please feel free to contact me at (701) 241-8632 or [dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com](mailto:dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



DAVID H. SEDERQUIST  
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE