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October 27, 2020

**VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

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:

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

### **Q3 2020 REPORT**

Below is an update on the activity for each approved project during July, August and September 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 31, 2019. The Aircraft Detection Lighting System was completed and operational on April 7, 2020.

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

The project achieved commercial operation on April 3, 2020.

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

Blazing Star II’s commercial operation date has shifted into February 2021 primarily due to COVID-19 supply chain issues with the turbine supplier, Vestas. The project is experiencing additional cost pressures as a result.

Below are the Q3 2020 completed milestones:

09/16/2020	Foundation backfills complete.
09/26/2020	First Mechanical Completion Certificates complete, which allows pre-commissioning of individual wind turbines to begin.
09/30/2020	The step-up substation, generation transmission line, and collector substation were first energized.

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

Due to COVID-19 and permitting delays, Freeborn is currently forecasted for commercial operation by March 31, 2021 and is experiencing additional cost pressures as a result.

Below are the Q3 2020 completed milestones:

07/14/2020	Main Power Transformers (MPT) delivered and set on pad
09/12/2020	O&M Building Construction Complete
09/17/2020	Electrical Equipment Enclosure Building Delivered and set on pad
09/21/2020	Start of Turbine Deliveries

**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 are the Q3 2020 completed milestones:

07/16/2020	Wind turbine foundations completed.
08/17/2020	First of seven electrical collection circuits energized.
08/24/2020	Wind turbine deliveries completed.
08/31/2020	Forty-three of eighty-eight turbines “mechanically” complete.
09/18/2020	Project O&M Building framed and interconnection commenced.

**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 Q3 2020 completed milestones:

08/03/2020	South Dakota PUC approved construction permit for the project.
08/10/2020	Project construction started with civil grading and access road construction.
08/31/2020	Engineering designs for WTG foundations and Civil construction were completed and issued for construction (IFC).
09/16/2020	Project contractor poured the first of 72 wind turbine foundations.

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