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July 27, 2021

—VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL—

Mr. Steven M. Kahl, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept. 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: TREE AND SHRUB INSPECTIONS AT FOXTAIL WIND CENTER
(CASE NO. PU-17-284)

Dear Mr. Kahl:

On June 22, 2021 Northern States Power Co., doing business as Xcel Energy, (the Company) received a letter from Commission Staff regarding Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan inspections for the Company's Foxtail wind facility. In the letter, Staff indicated that the Company may choose to comply with a newer, simplified version of Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications that was approved on March 13, 2019.

With this letter, the Company wishes to inform the Commission and Staff that it would like to adopt the March 13, 2019 simplified process.

It is our understanding that, under the simplified process, since the replacement plantings at Foxtail were completed June 17, 2020 Xcel Energy will file a report by June 17, 2022 documenting how the plan created sustainable plantings appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions, and how it's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan provided long-term benefits to landowners, farmer and ranchers, the community, wildlife, and the environment. The summary must also report the number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David H. Sederquist'.

DAVID H. SEDERQUIST
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

cc: Mr. Patrick Fahn