

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Northern States Power Company
115 kV Transmission Line – Cass County
Public Convenience and Necessity**

Case No. PU-17-332

ORDER

November 29, 2017

Preliminary Statement

On August 21, 2017, Northern States Power Company (NSP dba Xcel Energy) filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an approximate five-mile 115 kV transmission line between the Maple River and Red River substations in Cass County, North Dakota.

On September 20, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until October 20, 2017 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 3, 2017, the Commission discussed the application with NSP 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 94,000 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.

The transmission line will provide for increased reliability of service in the Fargo area by reducing overloads on neighboring lines and transformers. Currently, in the event that one element in the local transmission system fails (an N-1 contingency), NSP would be required to interrupt service to customers in order to meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards designed to protect the system in the event a second element were to fail (an N-2 contingency). Construction of this line will resolve this need

to interrupt service. Therefore, public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the transmission line.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. NSP's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the 115 kV Transmission Line – Cass County is GRANTED.
2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5913 is issued to NSP to construct and operate the 115 kV Transmission Line – Cass County Project.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Brian Kroshus
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chairman



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
Certificate Number 5913**

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Northern States Power Company to construct and operate an approximate five-mile 115 kV transmission line between the Maple River and Red River substations in Cass County, North Dakota.

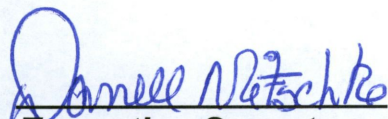
This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated November 29, 2017 in Case No. PU-17-332, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

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, November 29, 2017.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner