

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company  
Cogeneration/Small Power Producer  
Rates

Case No. PU-20-17

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY REGULAR AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **29th day of January 2020** she deposited in the United States Mail at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope by first class mail, fully prepaid, securely sealed each containing a photocopy of:

- **Staff Response To Application For Protection Of Information**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

David Sederquist  
Senior Regulatory & Financial Consultant  
Xcel Energy  
PO Box 2747  
Fargo, ND 58108-2747

**Geralyn R. Schmaltz** further deposes and says that on the **29th day of January 2020**, she sent an electronic message to **two** addressees, each including an electronic copy in portable document format of the same document

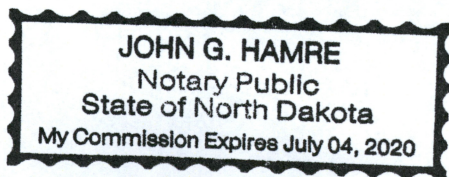
The electronic mail was addressed as follows:

Lynnette Sweet  
Regulatory Administrator  
[regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com](mailto:regulatory.records@xcelenergy.com)

David Sederquist  
Senior Regulatory & Financial Consultant  
[dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com](mailto:dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com)

Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office and electronic mail address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this **29th day of January 2020**.



SEAL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cecily R. Schomay", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Hamre", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the words "Notary Public" are printed.

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**STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION**

On January 2, 2020, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

The information for which NSP seeks protection includes information regarding the calculation of net annual avoided capacity costs.

NSP's application states that this information is trade secret because it is information that "(1) [d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (2) [i]s the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain the secrecy of the information," as provided in North Dakota Century Code Section 44-04-18.4(2)(d). NSP also states that the information sought to be protected meets the definition of "trade secret" set forth in North Dakota Century Code Section 47-25.1-01(4). Such information has been marked as TRADE SECRET in NSP's responses to data requests and in the pre-filed testimony submitted by NSP, or may arise or be discussed in the hearing or hearings in this matter.

The application further states that the information could have economic value to potential vendors, contractors, and suppliers who may desire to bid for the construction of a new combustion turbine plant. Furthermore, cost and resource information may have

independent value in the marketplace such as confidential bid information, and if left unprotected, could be harmful for NSP's customers in North Dakota.

The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by NSP. The information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the subject matter of the information.

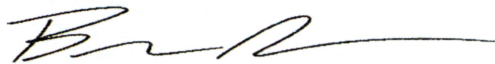
NSP has requested that this, and similar types of this information, be treated as trade secret in all of NSP's regulatory filings and other sharing of this information with governmental entities.

The persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information include investors and potential investors in NSP; entities with which NSP currently conducts or may conduct business; and other utilities. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would provide these persons and entities prior foreknowledge of information not readily available to the public.

Staff believes that NSP's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of NSP to protect certain information filed in the captioned case.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2020.



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Brian Johnson  
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