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Direct Testimony  
Christopher J. Shaw

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company  
for an Advance Determination of Prudence for Repowered Wind Portfolio

Case No. PU-20-\_\_\_\_  
Exhibit\_\_\_\_(CJS-1)

**Policy**

October 13, 2020

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**I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND TITLE.

A. My name is Christopher J. Shaw. I am a Regulatory Policy Manager for Northern States Power Company – Minnesota (NSP or Xcel Energy or the Company).

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE.

A. I have worked for Xcel Energy since November 2015, initially as a Principle Rate Analyst. I began my current position in August 2018.

Prior to joining Xcel Energy, I worked for the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office. My statement of qualifications is provided as Exhibit\_\_\_(CJS-1), Schedule 1.

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1 Q. WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES?

2 A. In my current role, I work with the Resource Planning team on the  
3 development of resource plans and acquisitions for the five-state integrated  
4 Upper Midwest Northern States Power Company system (NSP System),  
5 which provides electric service to customers in North Dakota, South Dakota,  
6 Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. This includes assisting the Company in  
7 making reasonable and prudent acquisition decisions for electric generation  
8 resources.

9

10 Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

11 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide support for the Company's request  
12 for an Advance Determination of Prudence (ADP) for the proposed  
13 repowering of the Border Winds, Grand Meadows Wind, Nobles Wind, and  
14 Pleasant Valley Wind facilities. In my testimony, I detail the transaction and  
15 discuss the policy issues related to the matter, and address the prudence of the  
16 proposed repowering in support of the Company's ADP Application  
17 (Application).

18

19 Q. HOW IS YOUR TESTIMONY STRUCTURED?

20 A. My testimony covers the following topics:

- 21 • Regulatory Matters;
- 22 • Description of the Repowering Projects;
- 23 • Prudence of the Repowering Projects; and
- 24 • Presentation of Witnesses.

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**II. REGULATORY MATTERS**

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Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE COMPANY'S REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THIS ADP.

A. North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) section 49-05-16 allows a public utility to seek an ADP from the Commission at the utility's discretion. However, pursuant to the Settlement Agreement in Case No. PU-07-776, the Company is obligated to file an Application for an ADP for its acquisition of generating resources above 50 MW.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, under the Revised Second Amended Comprehensive Settlement Agreement in Case No. PU-12-813, the Company requires an ADP for all PPAs over 50 MW before such costs can be included for recovery in the Company's FCR.<sup>2</sup> In Case No. PU-12-59, Xcel Energy committed to filing its ADP applications within 14 days of seeking similar approvals in Minnesota.<sup>3</sup> Section 49-05-16(7) of the North Dakota Century Code provides that there is a rebuttable presumption that resource additions within North Dakota are prudent.

Q. IS THE COMPANY MEETING NORTH DAKOTA FILING REQUIREMENTS WITH THIS APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING TESTIMONY?

A. Yes. This Application complies with the requirements of N.D.C.C. § 49-05-16 and the Settlement Agreements in Case Nos. PU-07-776 and PU-12-813. Additionally, in accordance with our commitment in Case No. PU-12-59, the

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<sup>1</sup> *N. States Power Co. Elec. Rate Increase Application*, Case No. PU-07-776, ORDER ADOPTING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT at 6 of Settlement Agreement (Dec. 31, 2008).  
<sup>2</sup> *N. States Power Co. Elec. Rate Increase Application*, Case No. PU-12-813, ORDER ADOPTING SETTLEMENT at 10 of attached Second Amended Comprehensive Settlement Agreement (Feb. 26, 2014).  
<sup>3</sup> *N. States Power Co. Advance Prudence – Geronimo Wind Application*, Case No. PU-12-59, LETTER OF COMMITMENT (Nov. 5, 2012).

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1 Company is submitting the Application within 14 days of filing a petition  
2 seeking approval for the wind repowering projects in Minnesota, which  
3 occurred on September 29, 2020. Finally, the Application and supporting  
4 testimony demonstrate the prudence of the Company's acquisition of the  
5 facility.

**III. DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE  
PROPOSED REPOWERING PROJECTS**

**A. Project Background and Description**

11 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED REPOWERING PROJECTS.

12 A. The Company is proposing to repower the following Company-owned wind  
13 generation facilities: Border Winds, a 150 MW facility in Rolette County,  
14 North Dakota, Grand Meadows Wind, a 100.5 MW facility in Mower County,  
15 Minnesota; Nobles Wind, a 201 MW facility in Nobles County, Minnesota;  
16 and Pleasant Valley Wind, a 200 MW facility in Mower County, Minnesota.  
17 The proposed repowering projects are all self-builds. The Company also  
18 intends to acquire additional repowered wind energy at three facilities not  
19 owned by the Company through power-purchase agreements (PPAs). Those  
20 projects, which are not a part of the Application due to their size, are:  
21 Ewington Wind, a 20 MW facility in Jackson County, Minnesota, McNeilus  
22 Wind, a 37.5 MW project in Dodge County, Minnesota, and West Ridge Wind,  
23 a 9.5 MW facility in Pipestone County, Minnesota. Together, the Company-  
24 owned and PPA projects are referred to as the Wind Repower Portfolio.

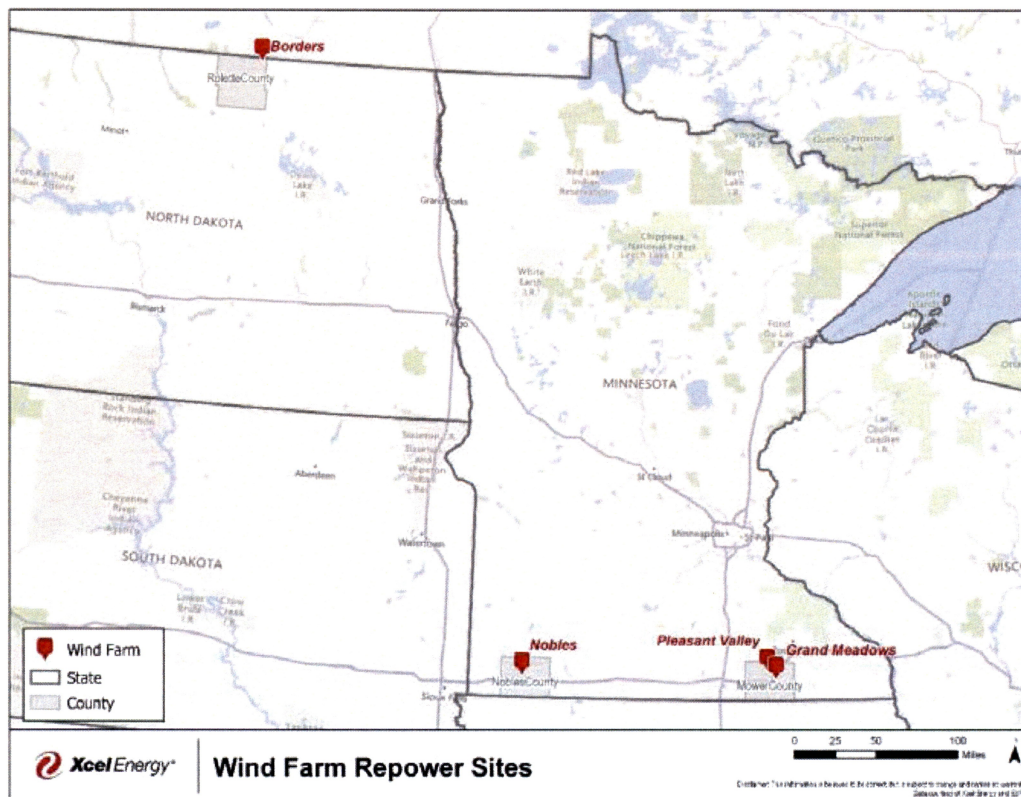
25 Q. For which projects is the Company requesting an ADP?

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A. The Company is requesting an ADP for the four Company-owned projects: Border Winds, Grand Meadow Wind, Nobles Wind, and Pleasant Valley Wind. The Company is seeking ADPs for all four of projects as they each benefit customers, but the Commission could grant or deny ADPs for the projects on an individual basis. The Border Winds repowering is presumed to be prudent under N.D.C.C. § 49-05-16(7). We are not required to request ADPs for the three PPA, as they are each less than 50 MWs, and so the Company will address them in the Fuel Cost Rider.

Figure 1 below shows the location of the four Company-owned projects.

**Figure 1: Proposed Xcel Energy Company-Owned Wind Repowers**



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1 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BORDER WINDS REPOWERING IN GREATER DETAIL.

2 A. Border Winds is a 150 MW wind facility located on approximately 24,640 acres  
3 of land in Rolette County, North Dakota. The facility was originally placed  
4 into service in 2015, interconnecting at the Peace Garden 230 kV substation,  
5 where NSP is also the Transmission Owner. The proposed project will  
6 repower the full capacity of the facility. **[TRADE SECRET DATA**  
7 **BEGINS**

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**TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS].**<sup>4</sup> The project will continue to use  
the existing interconnection. We expect the repowered project will commence  
operation in 2024, and that the repowering work will extend Border Winds'  
useful life with new components expected to last for a renewed 25-year period.

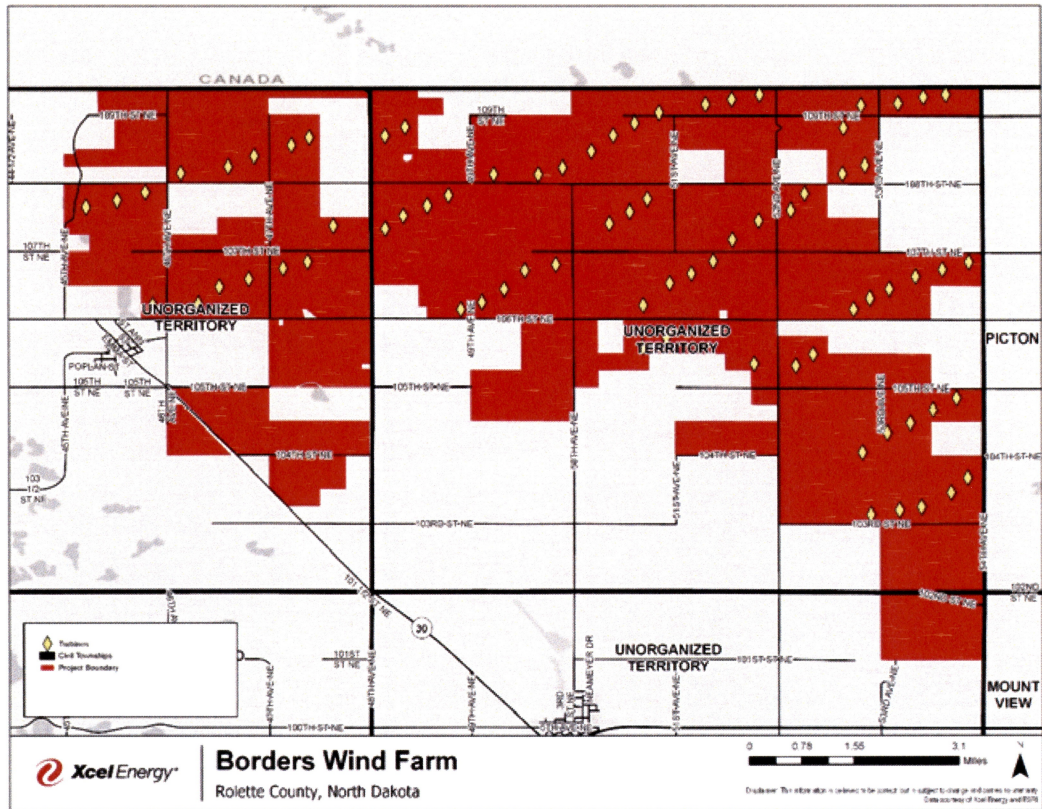
Figure 2 shows the location of the Border Winds facility and the proposed  
repower.

**Figure 2: Border Winds Repower Location**

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<sup>4</sup> The maximum facility production MW output will be increased to more than the POI MW output per the original GIA with the turbine uprate which is allowed under FERC 845. By overbuilding the plant MW output (offsetting electrical losses in the system, planned and unplanned turbine outages or other electrical losses of the plant) but limiting the MW output at the POI per the original GIA (150MW) the facility will be able to realize more energy production during periods when the facility is not producing the maximum MW output.

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Q. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE BORDER WINDS REPOWER?

A. The Border Winds Repower is expected to achieve a net capacity factor (NCF) of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS], resulting in an average annual production of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS] per year, depending on final layout and turbine selection. This represents an efficiency gain of nearly [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS] over the existing facility's average annual gross energy production levels. Total capital costs for the Border Winds Repower are currently estimated at approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

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1       **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** (including Allowance for Funds Used  
2       During Construction, or “AFUDC”), which also covers the decommissioning  
3       expenses for the removed components. Given the estimated COD of 2024,  
4       we believe the project will qualify for [**TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
5               **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** PTCs over its first ten years  
6       of repowered operation. The estimated LCOE for the project is [**TRADE**  
7       **SECRET DATA BEGINS**                       **TRADE SECRET DATA**  
8       **ENDS]**, which represents a [**TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
9       **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** reduction relative to the existing facility.

10  
11    Q.    CAN YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE THE GRAND MEADOWS REPOWERING IN  
12           GREATER DETAIL?

13    A.    Grand Meadows is a 100.5 MW wind facility located on approximately 10,000  
14           acres of land in Mower County, Minnesota. The facility was originally placed  
15           into service in 2008, interconnecting at the Pleasant Valley 161 kV substation,  
16           via a GIA between the Company and Great River Energy (GRE). The  
17           proposed project will repower the full capacity of the facility, [**TRADE**  
18           **SECRET DATA BEGINS**

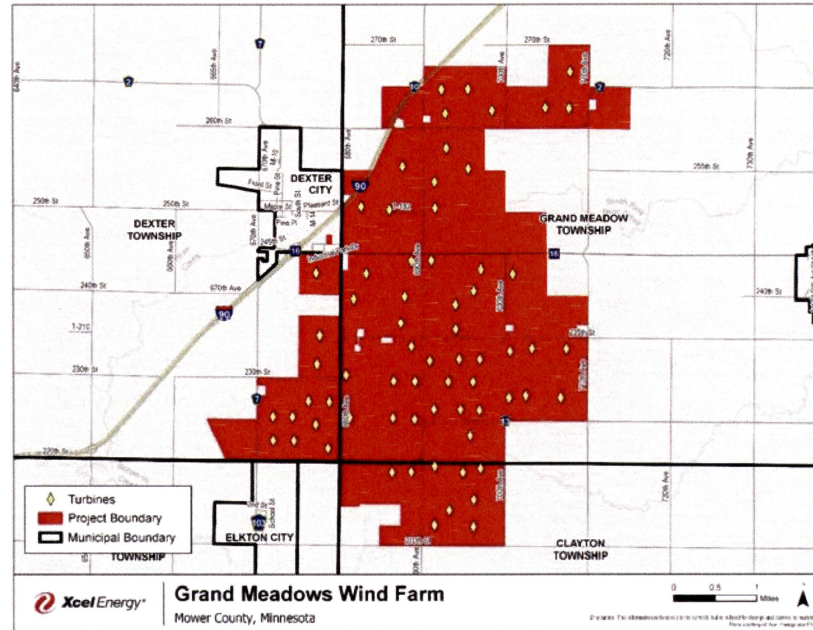
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21               **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]**, and it will continue to use the  
22           existing interconnection under our GIA. We expect the repowered project will  
23           commence operation in 2023, and that the repowering work will extend  
24           Grand Meadows’ useful life with new components expected to last for a  
25           renewed 20-year period.

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1 Figure 3 shows the location of the Grand Meadows facility and proposed  
2 repower.

3 **Figure 3: Grand Meadows Wind Repower Location**



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6 Q. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE GRAND MEADOWS REPOWER?

7 A. The Grand Meadows Repower is expected to achieve a net capacity factor  
8 (NCF) of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS  
9 TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS], resulting in an average annual  
10 production of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS  
11 TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS] per year, depending on final layout and  
12 turbine selection. This represents an efficiency gain of [TRADE SECRET  
13 DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS], relative to  
14 the existing facility's estimated average annual gross energy production. Total  
15 capital costs for the Grand Meadows Repower are currently estimated at  
16 approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

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1       **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** including AFUDC, which also covers  
2       decommissioning expenses for the removed components. Given the  
3       estimated COD of 2023, we believe the project will qualify for **[TRADE**  
4       **SECRET DATA BEGINS**                   **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]**  
5       PTCs over its first ten years of repowered operation. The estimated LCOE  
6       for the project is **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**                   **TRADE**  
7       **SECRET DATA ENDS]**, which represents a **[TRADE SECRET DATA**  
8       **BEGINS**                   **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** reduction in  
9       LCOE relative to the existing facility.

10  
11    Q.   PLEASE DESCRIBE THE NOBLES REPOWERING IN GREATER DETAIL?

12    A.   Nobles is a 201 MW wind facility located on approximately 27,465 acres of  
13       land in Nobles County, Minnesota. The facility was originally placed into  
14       service in 2010, interconnecting at the Nobles 34.5 kV substation, where NSP  
15       is also the Transmission Owner. The proposed project will repower the full  
16       capacity of the facility, **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**

17  
18                                   **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]**, and it will  
19       continue to use the existing interconnection.<sup>5</sup> We expect the repowered  
20       project will commence operation in 2022, and that the repowering work will  
21       extend Nobles' useful life with new components expected to last for a renewed  
22       25-year period.

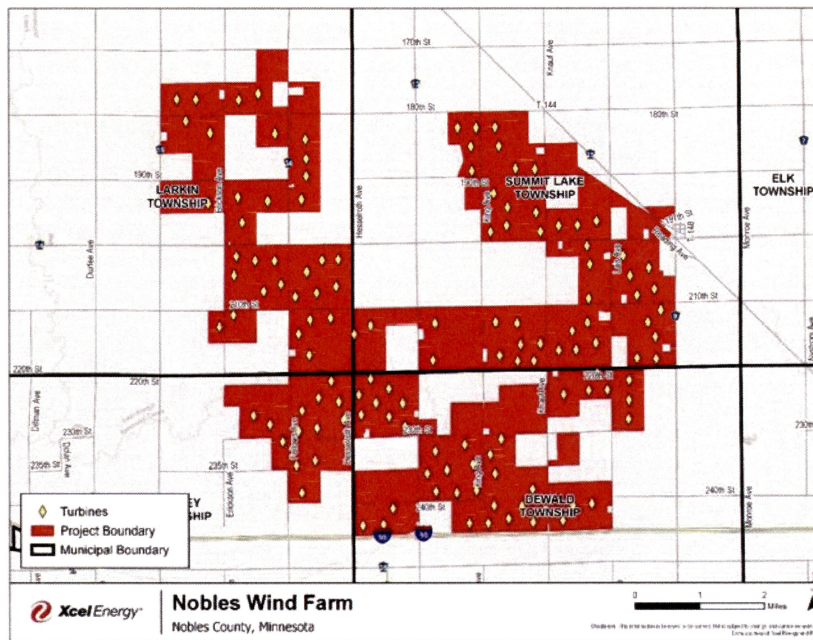
23  
24       Figure 4 shows the location of the Nobles facility and proposed repower.

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<sup>5</sup> The Company does plan to submit a Permissible Technology Advancement (PTA) request to MISO. The proposed repowering is not expected to constitute a material modification to the GIA and thus does not require an amendment.

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**Figure 4: Nobles Wind Repower Location**



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4 Q. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE NOBLES REPOWER?

5 A. The Nobles Repower is expected to achieve a net capacity factor (NCF) of

6 approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE

7 SECRET DATA ENDS], resulting in an average annual production of

8 approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

9 [TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS], depending on final layout and turbine

10 selection. This represents an efficiency gain of approximately [TRADE

11 SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]

12 over the existing facility's average annual gross energy production levels. Total

13 capital costs for the Nobles Repower are currently estimated at approximately

14 [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS TRADE SECRET

15 DATA ENDS] including AFUDC, which also covers decommissioning

16 expenses for the removed components. Given the estimated COD of 2023,

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1 we believe the project will qualify for **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
2 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** percent PTCs over its first ten years of  
3 repowered operation. The estimated LCOE for the project is **[TRADE**  
4 **SECRET DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA**  
5 **ENDS]**, which represents a **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
6 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** reduction relative to the existing facility.  
7 We note here, however, that one of our portfolio proposals included an option  
8 for Nobles that achieved **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
9 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** PTCs. As noted above, we did not  
10 advance this proposal because there remains some uncertainty regarding  
11 **[TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS**  
12 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]**. That said, the Company intends to  
13 reserve the ability to achieve additional PTCs. If achieved, we expect  
14 customers will experience increased benefits.  
15

16  
17 This project will support construction employment in the area and extended  
18 local land lease and tax benefits. We estimate that the project will create  
19 around 200 temporary construction jobs over the duration of the repowering  
20 project. Over the project's expected 25 years of useful life (from the date of  
21 the repower project's COD), the local area will benefit from extended average  
22 landowner payments of approximately **[TRADE SECRET DATA**  
23 **BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** per year, and  
24 average local property tax revenue of approximately **[TRADE SECRET**  
25 **DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS]** per year.  
26 In total, these benefits amount to over \$2.5 million per year.

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1 Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE PLEASANT VALLEY REPOWERING IN GREATER DETAIL?

2 A. Pleasant Valley is a 200 MW wind facility located on approximately 72,740  
3 acres of land in Mower County, Minnesota. The facility was originally placed  
4 into service in 2015, interconnecting at the Pleasant Valley 161 kV substation,  
5 via a GIA between the Company and Great River Energy (GRE).<sup>6</sup> The  
6 proposed project will repower the full capacity of the facility. [**TRADE**  
7 **SECRET DATA BEGINS**

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**TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS].**<sup>7</sup> The

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project will continue to use the existing interconnection under our GIA. We expect the repowered project will commence operation in 2024, and that the repowering work will extend Pleasant Valley's useful life with new components expected to last for a renewed 25-year period.

Figure 5 shows the location of the Pleasant Valley facility and proposed repower.

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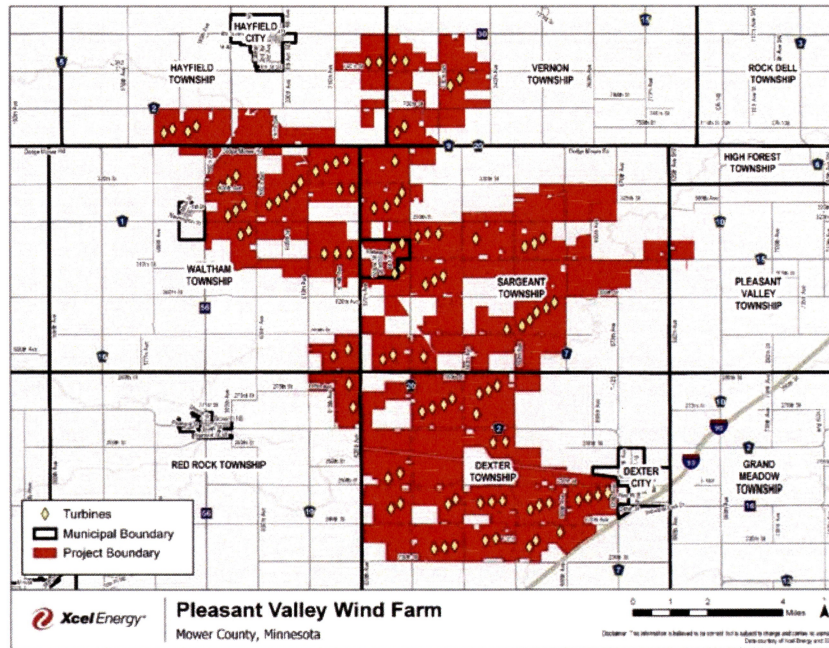
<sup>6</sup> The Company does plan to submit a Permissible Technology Advancements (PTA) request to MISO. The proposed repowering is not expected to constitute a material modification to the GIA and thus does not require an amendment.

<sup>7</sup> The maximum facility production MW output will be increased to more than the POI MW output per the original GIA with the turbine uprate which is allowed under FERC 845. By overbuilding the plant MW output (offsetting electrical losses in the system, planned and unplanned turbine outages or other electrical losses of the plant) but limiting the MW output at the POI per the original GIA (200MW) the facility will be able to realize more energy production during periods when the facility is not producing the maximum MW output.

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**Figure 5: Pleasant Valley Wind Repower Location**



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4 Q. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY REPOWER?

5 A. The Pleasant Valley Repower is expected to achieve a net capacity factor

6 (NCF) of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

7 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**], resulting in an average annual

8 production of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

9 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**] per year, depending on final layout and

10 turbine selection. This represents an efficiency gain of [TRADE SECRET

11 **DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**], relative to

12 the existing facility's estimated average annual gross energy production. Total

13 capital costs for the Pleasant Valley Repower are currently estimated at

14 approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS

15 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**] including AFUDC, which also covers

16 decommissioning expenses for the removed components. Given the

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1 estimated COD of 2024, we believe the project will qualify for [TRADE  
2 **SECRET DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**  
3 PTCs over its first ten years of repowered operation. The estimated LCOE  
4 for the project is [TRADE SECRET DATA BEGINS  
5 **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**], which represents a [TRADE SECRET  
6 **DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**] reduction  
7 relative to the existing facility.

8  
9 This project will support construction employment in the area and extended  
10 local land lease and tax benefits. We estimate that the project will create  
11 around 200 temporary construction jobs over the duration of the repowering  
12 project. Over the project's expected 25 years of useful life (from the date of  
13 the repower COD), the local area will benefit from extended average  
14 landowner payments of approximately [TRADE SECRET DATA  
15 **BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**] per year, and  
16 average local property tax revenue of approximately [TRADE SECRET  
17 **DATA BEGINS** **TRADE SECRET DATA ENDS**] per year.  
18 In total, these benefits amount to over \$3.1 million per year.

19  
20 **B. Selection of Proposed Repowering Projects**

21 Q. WHY IS THE COMPANY PROPOSING THE ACQUISITION OF REPOWERED WIND  
22 GENERATION AT THIS TIME?

23 A. The Company regularly looks for ways to reduce its costs. Earlier this year,  
24 our Minnesota regulators asked the Company to explore projects which might  
25 provide some economic stimulus in light of the current recessionary  
26 conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to that

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1 request and in an effort to reduce costs, the Company considered a variety of  
2 investments that could both benefit our customers and support the economy  
3 in our service area. Because we believed that repowering older projects in our  
4 fleet might achieve both aims, we issued a solicitation on June 27, 2020 seeking  
5 proposals for repowering projects.

6  
7 Q. WHAT TYPE OF PROCESS DID THE COMPANY USE TO EVALUATE PROPOSALS?

8 A. Our approach was similar to the one we used for the acquisition of the wind  
9 portfolio approved by the Commission in Case No. PU-17-120. In particular,  
10 we used a process in which both self-build options and proposals from outside  
11 developers were considered. Accordingly, the Company developed self-build  
12 bid proposals which were completed and submitted before the August 21,  
13 2020 due date for responses to the solicitation.

14  
15 Q. WHAT RESPONSE DID THE COMPANY RECEIVE TO THE RFP?

16 We received 11 total bids for 9 distinct projects; some bidders (including the  
17 Company's portfolios of self-build bids) provided multiple options for the  
18 same project, with varying parameters such as commercial operation date  
19 (COD) and expected production tax credit (PTC) qualification. After our first  
20 phase of review, we determined that that four of the bids we received were  
21 initially incomplete. However, all bidders were able to remedy the identified  
22 deficiencies noted at this preliminary stage, and all bids moved forward to  
23 more substantive evaluation.

24  
25 Q. HOW DID THE COMPANY SUBSTANTIVELY EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS?

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1 A. We examined a variety of factors, such as bidder credit worthiness, bidder  
2 development experience, whether a bid proposed to repower a facility that  
3 currently delivers energy to our system, and whether the proposed project  
4 meets required interconnection standards. Most importantly, we analyzed  
5 whether a proposed project would result in cost savings for our customers.

6

7 Q. HOW DID THE COMPANY EVALUATE WHETHER A PROJECT WOULD RESULT IN  
8 SAVINGS?

9 A. We ran each individual proposed project through a “pro forma” spreadsheet  
10 analysis. This analysis compares the expected costs of each repower proposal  
11 to a baseline where the existing (unrepowered) project remains in our portfolio  
12 to the end of its expected life and is replaced by a generic wind resource  
13 thereafter. Pro forma modeling allowed us to screen projects for expected  
14 benefits prior to full resource planning modeling.

15

16 In the course of this evaluation, we discovered that two of the projects bid  
17 into the solicitation were not expected to yield customer benefits at the price  
18 and terms provided. These projects were eliminated from further  
19 consideration. The pro forma analysis indicated that the four projects included  
20 with this application (and the PPA projects that included in the broader Wind  
21 Repower Portfolio) are all expected to result in customer benefits.

22

23 The pro forma analysis is discussed in greater detail in the Direct Testimony  
24 of Company witness Ms. Farah L. Mandich.

25

26 Q. WHAT STEPS DID THE COMPANY TAKE AFTER THE PRO FORMA ANALYSIS?

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1 A. Next, the Company scored all remaining bids on key criteria outlined in our  
2 solicitation: While we did not set specific megawatt (MW) targets for our  
3 solicitation, the scoring phase continues to serve an important purpose, if –  
4 after individual review – we had discovered that the portfolio of selected  
5 projects as a whole did not result in customers savings. In that case, the lowest  
6 scoring project would be eliminated from consideration and the full portfolio  
7 remodeled, as described further below.

8

9 Q. DID THE COMPANY DO ANY PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSED  
10 PROJECTS?

11 A. After finalizing the shortlist of projects for consideration, we modeled the full  
12 portfolio to determine whether it is expected to yield customer benefits, on a  
13 net present value basis. In this stage of the process, we modeled all shortlisted  
14 projects together in EnCompass and evaluated portfolio benefits (or costs)  
15 relative to a Base Case where the projects are not repowered. At this stage, if  
16 the portfolio as a whole resulted in increased costs, the lowest ranked project  
17 would be eliminated from the portfolio, and the remaining portfolio of  
18 projects re-evaluated. This process would continue until the portfolio as a  
19 whole yielded customer benefits (in other words, where the net present value  
20 of the “change case” became lower than the Base Case).

21

22 That said, the full portfolio of shortlisted projects did result in customer  
23 benefits in our EnCompass modeling, and therefore no projects fell out of  
24 consideration in this final stage. The three PPA repowering projects that are  
25 not subjects of this Application were included in the portfolio modelling. It  
26 is important to note, however, that the majority of the benefits from the

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1 proposed repowering results from the four Company-owned projects that are  
2 the subject of the Application. These four projects are, after all, significantly  
3 larger than the PPA projects.

4  
5 The EnCompass modeling is discussed in greater detail in Ms. Mandich's  
6 Direct Testimony.

7  
8 **C. Project Benefits**

9 Q. WILL THE PROPOSED REPOWERINGS BENEFIT NORTH DAKOTA CUSTOMERS?

10 A. Yes. As discussed further in Ms. Mandich's Direct Testimony, the Company  
11 estimates the savings to customers from the Wind Repower Portfolio to be  
12 \$163 million on a present value of revenue requirement (PVRR) basis. The  
13 Company's pro forma analysis also showed that each individual project  
14 benefits customers on a PVRR basis. The Company's repowering of its four  
15 facilities will keep cost-effective, renewable resource on the NSP System at a  
16 lower cost than keeping each project in service until the end of its current asset  
17 life and then replacing it with a generic wind resource.

18  
19 Q. WHY DID THE COMPANY USE THE ASSUMPTION THAT GENERIC WIND  
20 RESOURCES WILL REPLACE THE PROJECTS IN QUESTION AT THE END OF THEIR  
21 ASSET LIVES?

22 A. Given the Company's plan to achieve and maintain our long-term carbon-  
23 reduction goals and, ultimately, realize our vision of delivering carbon-free  
24 energy by 2050, we believe this is a reasonable assumption for the likely  
25 resources that will ultimately replace these facilities in the future. We believe  
26 this is an appropriate benchmark to evaluate whether repowering would be a

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1 cost effective outcome. We also validated our pro forma assessment in our  
2 EnCompass modeling—with no constraint on replacement resource type—  
3 to further assess the portfolio in light of currently known future plans.  
4 Consequently, replacement with generic wind in the pro forma analysis  
5 provides a true comparison with the most likely resource choice we would  
6 make in absence of these projects. We believe this most accurately reflects  
7 the true value of moving forward with the Wind Repower Portfolio.

8  
9 Q. HAS THE COMPANY PERFORMED ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS?

10 A. Yes. Consistent with Advocacy Staff's request in the Mower County Wind  
11 ADP proceeding (Case No. PU-19-310), we also performed an additional pro  
12 forma analysis in which each proposed repowering project was compared to  
13 a baseline where the existing (unrepowered) project remains in our portfolio  
14 to the end of its expected life and is replaced by market energy. The results  
15 of the that analysis are presented in Ms. Mandich's Direct Testimony.

16  
17 Q. ARE THERE OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED REPOWERING  
18 PROJECTS?

19 A. Yes, in addition to the benefits to our customers from reduced costs, the  
20 proposed projects will also benefit the local communities in North Dakota  
21 and Minnesota in which the projects are located. The projects will result in  
22 good-paying temporary construction jobs during the period from 2021 to  
23 2024. In addition, the projects will result in payments to landowners and  
24 property tax payments during the extended life of the projects.

25  
26 Q. HAS THE COMPANY QUANTIFIED THESE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS?

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1 A. Yes, we estimate that the four projects that are the subject of the Application  
2 will create approximately 650 well-paying temporary construction jobs in  
3 Minnesota and North Dakota. In addition, the Company-owned projects are  
4 estimated to contribute approximately \$5 million directly to local economies  
5 through landowner lease payments, and an additional \$3.3 million in property  
6 tax revenues.

7

8 Q. WHAT PORTION OF THOSE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS WILL BE EXPERIENCED IN  
9 NORTH DAKOTA?

10 A. The Border Winds repowering should result in approximately 150 temporary  
11 construction jobs in Rolette County, North Dakota. In addition, we estimate  
12 that this will generate approximately \$1.4 million in lease payments and  
13 property tax payments for the community.

14

15

**IV. PRUDENCE OF THE**  
**REPOWERING PROJECTS**

16

17

18 Q. ARE THE PROPOSED REPOWERINGS PRUDENT ACQUISITIONS?

19 A. Yes. The Company's modeling indicates that customers will benefit from the  
20 repowering portfolio (including the PPA projects) because it will create cost  
21 savings of approximately \$163 million on a PVRR basis. The pro forma  
22 analysis also showed cost saving for each of the individual projects that are  
23 the subject of this Application.

24

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**V. PRESENTATION OF WITNESSES**

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Q. WHO ARE THE WITNESSES FOR THE COMPANY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. In addition to my Policy Testimony, the Company sponsors the following witness:

- Ms. Farah L. Mandich details the Company's analyses of the expected cost savings the Company expects to achieve through the wind repowering projects.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCLUSIONS.

A. For the reasons stated above, the Company's repowering of Border Winds, Grand Meadows Wind, Nobles Wind, and Pleasant Valley Wind are prudent and ADPs should be granted for each project without conditions.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. Yes, it does.

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

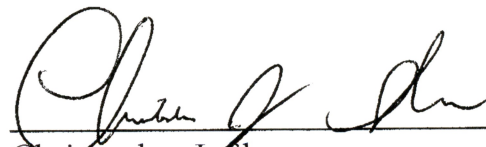
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE –  
REPOWERED WIND PORTFOLIO

CASE NO. PU-20-\_\_

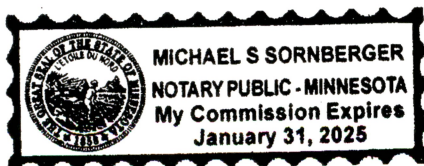
VERIFICATION


STATE OF MINNESOTA            )  
  )SS.  
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

Christopher J. Shaw, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that he is the Manager of Regulatory Policy for Applicant Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, in the above-captioned matter, that the testimony submitted in the above-captioned matter under his name was prepared under his direction, that he knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher J. Shaw

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My Commission expires: Jan. 31, 2025

**Christopher J. Shaw**  
**Manager, Regulatory Policy**  
401 Nicollet Mall, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
612-330-7974  
christopher.j.shaw@xcelenergy.com

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Xcel Energy**

*Manager, Regulatory Policy*

8/18-Present

*Principal Rate Analyst*

11/15-8/18

Developed strategy, coordinated subject matter expert analysis and prepared filings for the 2019 Upper Midwest Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), the 2016 IRP filing, Resource Treatment Framework (RTF), and resource acquisitions. Represented the Company at hearings on the IRP and other resource related proceedings.

### **Minnesota Department of Commerce-Division of Energy Resources**

*Public Utilities Rates Analyst*

8/06-6/12 & 6/13-11/15

Developed and supported the recommendations of the Department of Commerce in proceedings before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Performed analysis of utility regulatory filings. Appeared as an expert witness in numerous contested cases. Analyzed proposed legislation and prepared reports for the Minnesota Legislature.

### **Minnesota Office of the Attorney General-Anti-Trust and Utilities Division**

*Assistant Attorney General*

6/12-6/13

Advocated for residential and small business energy consumers on behalf of the Attorney General, including advocacy in Xcel Energy's 2012 rate case.

## EDUCATION

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University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI  
J.D.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI  
B.A.  
Major: Economics-Mathematical Emphasis