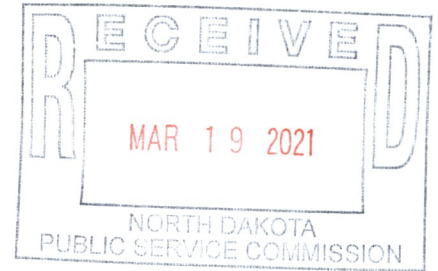


STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Northern States Power Company  
2021 Electric Rate Increase  
Application

Case No. PU-20-441  
OAH File No. 20200422

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

March 18, 2021

Preliminary Statement

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

[2] On November 23, 2020, staff reviewed the request of NSP for protection of information.

Discussion

[3] The information NSP seeks to protect includes the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) information for certain Company-owned facilities, and power purchase agreement (PPA) pricing for several NSP resources.

[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 and may arise or be discussed in the hearing or hearings in this matter.

[5] The application further states that the information could have economic value to potential vendors, contractors, and suppliers who may desire to bid for PPAs or other generation resources to NSP in the future. Potential suppliers would know NSP's LCOE for certain existing resources as well as what NSP has paid under existing PPAs. Knowledge of NSP's costs and PPA pricing could allow bidders to potentially determine

a floor below which no bidder would submit a price. Furthermore, cost and resource information may have independent value in the marketplace, and if left unprotected, could be harmful for NSP's customers in North Dakota.

[6] 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.

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

[8] North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-02-09-03 provides "the commission staff shall examine the information and application, and file and serve a response that includes a recommendation on whether the information qualifies for protection."

[9] Staff believes that the application satisfies the requirements of the law, which allows the Commission to grant protection of information in this proceeding.

[10] The NSP application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

[11] The January 2, 2020 application of Northern States Power Company for protection of information is **GRANTED**.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 18 day of March 2021.

State of North Dakota  
Public Service Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Hope L. Hogan  
Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
2911 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street - Suite 303  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503  
Telephone: (701) 328-3200



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

Northern States Power Company  
2021 Electric Rate Increase  
Application

Case No. PU-20-441  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**  
**OAH File No. 20200422**

The undersigned certifies that the original of the **ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION** was mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol, on the 18 day of March 2021, to:

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Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

John Schuh  
General Counsel  
Public Service Commission  
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Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

and that true and correct copies of the above document were mailed, regular mail, on the 18 day of March 2021, to:

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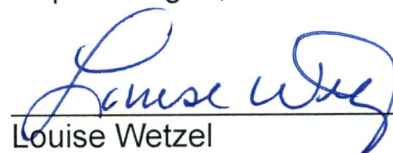
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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
Hope L Hogan, Administrative Law Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Louise Wetzel