

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Northern States Power Company
2021 Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application**

Case No. PU-21-381

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

January 18, 2022

Preliminary Statement

On September 2, 2021, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

Staff reviewed the request of NSP for protection of information.

Discussion

The information for which the Company seeks protection includes information related to the Interruptible Class and Firm Transport Class members.

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 with this information, potential competitors of the customers from whom the information was obtained could learn the quantity of natural gas the customers consume, and the revenue NSP receives from the customers. Competitors could also learn NSP's projections about individual customer's consumption of natural gas and future revenues from the customer. This information could give competitors insights into the customers' operating expenses and practices for controlling its expenses. Competitors could use this information to set prices for goods and services that are more competitive than the customers' prices.

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.

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."


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

The Commission concludes NSP's application satisfies the requirements of North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

Order

The Commission orders the September 2, 2021, application of Northern States Power Company for protection of information is GRANTED.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chair

Vacant