

Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Fedorchak and Kroshus

From: Victor Schock Public Utility Analyst



Date: December 2, 2021

Re: Northern States Power Company, Click-&-Agree & Digital Signatures – General Service, Tariff, Case Nos. PU-21-433 (Electric) and PU-21-434 (Natural Gas)

On November 22, 2021 Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed applications for approval of modifications to its General Rules and Regulations Tariffs for both Electric and Natural Gas service. The Tariff modifications are intended to enable additional signature and document execution options including online “click-and-agree” and digital signatures on customer forms.

The proposed modifications provide additional and more convenient options for customers to sign forms necessary to receive service from NSP. The specific language NSP proposes to add is “Consistent with the North Dakota Uniform Electronic Transactions Act codified in Chapter 9-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, and any successor thereto, both click-and-agree and digital signatures may be allowed on customer forms. However, the Company may still insist on original hard copy signatures. Where electronic signatures are provided, they shall have the same effect as original signatures. Electronically stored versions of such documents shall have the same validity as the original.” This additional tariff language serves the stated purpose and permits the use of additional signature options.

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 49-05-05 and 49-05-06, a notice of tariff or rate change received by the Commission not suspended upon the expiration of 30 days from the date of filing becomes effective. Due to the nature of this tariff change, Staff believes it is appropriate to permit these tariff changes to become effective by not suspending the tariff nor issuing a notice of opportunity for hearing.

Staff believes the proposed tariff changes are reasonable and prudent, and recommends permitting them to take effect after 30 days of receipt of NSP’s filing (on December 22, 2021) by taking no action on the filing.

c. Dave Sederquist

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