

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern State Power Company
Customer Credit – DOE Settlement 2020
Application

Case No. PU-21-438

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED 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 **1st day of April 2022**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **one** envelope with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

- **Order**

The envelope was addressed as follows:

David Sederquist
Sr. Regulatory & Financial Consultant
Xcel Energy
2302 Great Northern Drive
Fargo, ND 58102
Cert. No. 7020 1290 0000 1334 4536

Geralyn R. Schmaltz further deposes and says that on the **1st day of April 2022**, she sent an electronic message to **two** addressees each including an electronic copy in portable document format of the same document.

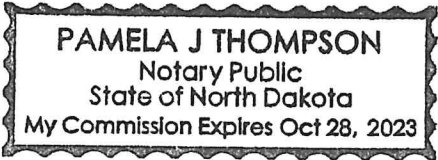
The electronic mail was addressed as follows:

Dave Sederquist
Xcel Energy
dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com

Regulatory Records
Records Specialist
Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com

The addresses shown are the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office and electronic mail addresses.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **1st day of April 2022**.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline Schmag", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, "Pamela J Thompson", written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the words "Notary Public" are printed.

SEAL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Customer Credit – DOE Settlement 2020
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Case No. PU-21-438

ORDER

March 30, 2022

Preliminary Statement

On November 26, 2021, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed with the Commission for approval to refund to customers the twelfth settlement payment of \$847,600 received October 27, 2021, from the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) arising from the USDOE's inability to accept nuclear waste under the federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The twelfth settlement payment has been placed in a separate external, interest-bearing account, and the final payment will include interest received, net of banking fees.

On December 15, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing that provided until January 14, 2022, for receiving written comments and hearing requests. No response was received.

The Notice of Opportunity for Hearing identified the issues to be determined in this matter:

1. Is the 12th settlement payment refund just and reasonable?
2. What is the appropriate settlement refund mechanism and refund period?
3. Whether a 150-day extension of the February 24, 2022 deadline will be necessary.
4. Whether a variance of the Commission's Fuel Adjustment Clause rules will be necessary.

Discussion

NSP proposes two alternative refund mechanisms to refund the twelfth USDOE settlement payment. The first method involves issuing the credit as a one-time line item to North Dakota electric customers bills by July 24, 2022. This method would require an extension of the 120-day disbursement deadline per the Commission's August 4, 2021

Order in Case No. PU-21-89. NSP is requesting a 150-day extension of the disbursement deadline.

The second method involves granting a variance to the Commission's Fuel Adjustment Clause rules, allowing NSP to issue the twelfth payment as a credit to fuel expense in an upcoming monthly North Dakota Fuel Cost Rider, effective in the month after Commission approval. This method also requires an extension of the 120-day disbursement deadline.

NSP estimates that a one-time bill credit would be approximately \$3.75 per customer.

Having considered this matter, the Commission finds the refund of the twelfth USDOE settlement payment should be issued as a one-time, distinct line-item credit on bills to North Dakota electric customers by July 24, 2022, and that a 150-day extension of the disbursement deadline is necessary.

NSP's twelfth settlement payment refund of \$847,600 plus interest received, net of bank fees, is just and reasonable.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. Northern States Power Company's proposal to issue the twelfth USDOE settlement payment as a one-time, distinct line-item credit on bills to North Dakota electric customers by July 24, 2022 is approved.
2. The request for a 150-day extension of the disbursement deadline to issue to North Dakota customers the twelfth USDOE settlement payment is approved.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chair


Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner