

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE
INVESTIGATION INTO HOME
PROTECTION PLANS

Case No. PU-25-148

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy or the Company) respectfully requests the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) enter a trade secret protective order in the above-referenced case pursuant to Chapter 69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect from public disclosure pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18 or any other applicable public disclosure laws, any trade secret and commercial information as defined by N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4 that may be provided to the Commission, its staff, or staff consultants through filings, discovery responses, pre-filed testimony, examination at hearing, settlement discussions, or otherwise in the course of the above-referenced case.

1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

The information for which the Company seeks protection includes the Company's business arrangement with HomeServe USA Repair Management Corp (HomeServe) as set forth in the Marketing Agreement and Master Agency and Administration Agreement (plus amending letters) between the Company and HomeServe (the Agreements). We seek to protect the Agreements in their entirety. In addition, we seek to protect the following information set out in our COMMENTS to the Commission dated September 2, 2025 in this matter:

- Fee amounts that the Company collects from HomeServe for commissions and billing support obligations;
- Duration and other information regarding the nature of the relationship between HomeServe and the Company;
- Details regarding the methods used by HomeServe to market to Company customers; and

- Specific measures taken to protect Company customer data.

2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.

The Agreements in their entirety and the contract terms and conditions redacted from our comments to the Commission could have economic value to potential vendors, contractors, and suppliers who may desire to bid Company work in the future. Moreover, potential suppliers would know what the Company has paid under the agreement terms included in this matter and, consequently, this information could potentially serve as a floor below which no bidder would submit a price. Further, knowledge of certain non-economic contract terms would provide potential vendors the opportunity to identify non-cost items of importance to the Company. Such a result could be harmful for the Company's customers, now and in the future.

3. An explanation why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by the Company and HomeServe. 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 business arrangement between the Company and HomeServe, or to third persons pursuant to nondisclosure agreements to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

The Company has requested that this information be treated as trade secret (or similar) in all of its regulatory filings and other sharing of this information with governmental entities.

4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

Other entities with which the Company does business, and other utilities, would obtain economic value from disclosure of this information.

5. A specific description of known competitors and competitors' goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.

See response to No. 4 above.

6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

See response to No. 3 above.

In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope which is labeled: **PROTECTED INFORMATION – PRIVATE**.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of September, 2025.

Northern States Power Company,

/s/

ALEX J. NISBET
REGULATORY POLICY SPECIALIST