

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Northern States Power Company
2026 Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application**

Case No. PU-26-52

STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

On January 30, 2026, Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy or the Company) filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned case.

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

The Company states that this information is commercial information because it is “information pertaining to buying and selling of goods and services that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information were to be disclosed . . . would cause substantial competitive injury to the person from which the information was obtained,” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a).

The Company further states that the information is trade secret because it is information that “(1) [d]erives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and (2) [i]s the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain the secrecy of the information,” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(d).

The application further states 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 the Company receives from the customers.

Competitors could also learn the Company's projections about 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 Xcel Energy. 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.

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

Staff believes that the Company's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of Northern States Power Company to protect certain information filed in the captioned case.

Dated this 13th day of March 2026.



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