

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

**Case No. PU-26-52
OAH File No. 20260095**

ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

April 1, 2026

Preliminary Statement

[1] On January 30, 2026, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed an Application for Trade Secret Protection to protect certain information in the above captioned case.

[2] On March 13, 2026, Commission Staff filed a response to NSP's request for protection of information.

Discussion

[3] The information NSP seeks to protect is Interruptible and Firm Transport class members.

[4] Such information has been marked as PROTECTED DATA in NSP's pre-filed information and may arise or be discussed in the hearing in this matter.

[5] The application further states that with this information:

potential competitors of the customers from whom the information was obtained could make reasonable inferences about the quantity of natural gas certain customers consume and the revenue Xcel Energy receives from those customers. Competitors could also learn Xcel Energy's projections about customer's consumption of natural gas and future revenues from them. This information could give competitors insights into the customers' operating expenses and practices for controlling their expenses. Competitors could use this information to set prices for goods and services that are more competitive than the customers' prices.

See NSP Application.

[6] 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.

[7] NSP has requested that this information be treated as trade secret in all of NSP's regulatory filings and other instances of sharing of this information with governmental entities.

[8] 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.”

[9] Commission Staff believes the application satisfies the requirements of the law which allows the Commission to grant protection of information in this proceeding.

[10] The NSP application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information which is the subject of this request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

[11] Northern States Power Company’s Application for Trade Secret Protection dated January 30, 2026, is **GRANTED**.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 1 day of April 2026.

State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission

By: 

Hope L. Hogan
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
2911 North 14th Street - Suite 303
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
OAH File No. 20260005

The undersigned certifies that the original of the **ORDER ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION** was sent by electronic mail and mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol, on the 1 day of April 2026 to:

Chris Martens
General Counsel
Public Service Commission
cjmartens@nd.gov

and that a true and correct copy of the above document was sent by electronic mail on the 1 day of April 2026 to:

Zev Simpser
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simpser.zev@dorsey.com

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Hope L Hogan, Administrative Law Judge



Louise Wetzel