



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

November 24, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RE: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
DOCKET NO. EL09-009

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (the “Company” or “Xcel Energy”) operating in South Dakota, submitted its application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) for authority to increase rates for electric service in South Dakota on June 30, 2009. The Commission issued its ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND HEARING (“Order”) in this matter on September 30, 2009.

On November 17, 2009, the Company submitted a proposal to extend the procedural schedule set forth in the Commission’s Order by one week so that settlement discussions could continue without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. Under the current schedule, Staff testimony is due November 30.

The Company proposes to extend the procedural schedule an additional two weeks to allow settlement discussions to continue. We understand that if a settlement is not reached, the additional two-week delay allows Staff testimony to be filed by December 14. We will work with Commission Staff in setting forth new due dates for the Company’s rebuttal testimony if we do not reach settlement.

The Company has discussed the additional delay with Commission Staff and it is our understanding that Staff supports our requested extension. We also understand that extending the procedural schedule in this matter may require the schedule for the hearing to be extended more than two weeks due to the availability of the

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Commissioners, Staff, Commission consultants and Xcel Energy. The Company will work with the Commission on setting a date for the hearing that works best for all parties involved.

Should you have any questions regarding our request, please contact me at (605) 339-8350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J C Wilcox".

JAMES C. WILCOX
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS