

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY DBA) XCEL ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO) INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES))	JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
)	EL11-019

Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission Staff), jointly referred to as "Parties," hereby file the above-referenced Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties request the Commission adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all issues subject to this proceeding except (i) cost recovery for the Nobles wind plant and the adjustments associated with the level of the Nobles wind plant cost recovery allowed, and (ii) rate of return on equity, cost of debt and capital structure. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

1. This Joint Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation represents a negotiated settlement and thereby resolves all issues subject to this proceeding except (i) cost recovery for the Nobles wind plant and the adjustments associated with the level of the Nobles wind plant cost recovery allowed, and (ii) rate of return on equity, cost of debt and capital structure.
3. The terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the Commission to: 1) adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation without modification for the purpose of resolving all issues subject to this proceeding except (i) cost recovery for the Nobles wind plant and the adjustments associated with the level of the Nobles wind plant cost recovery allowed, and (ii) rate of return on equity, cost of debt and capital structure, and 2) enter an Order finding that the attached Settlement Stipulation results in just and reasonable rates for Xcel Energy's customers in its South Dakota service territory.

Northern States Power Company
dba Xcel Energy

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DATED: May 7, 2012

South Dakota Public Utilities
Commission

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