



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

May 9, 2012

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 DBA XCEL ENERGY
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES
DOCKET NO. EL11-019

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation operating in South Dakota, submitted its application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for authority to increase rates for electric service in South Dakota on June 30, 2011. The Commission issued its ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF HEARING (“Order”) in this matter on February 28, 2012.

Several modifications to the procedural schedule have been stipulated to by the parties to allow for settlement discussions to proceed without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. The Settlement Stipulation proposed by the Company and Commission Staff was submitted on May 8, 2012, and proposed to resolve all issues other than rate of return on equity, cost of debt, capital structure and cost recovery for the Nobles wind project. Commission Staff filed testimony on the disputed issues on April 16 and the Company filed rebuttal testimony on the disputed issues on April 27.

Commission Staff has requested the opportunity to file rebuttal testimony and after discussion with staff, we propose the following amended procedural schedule:

Staff Rebuttal Testimony	May 23
Xcel Energy Surrebuttal Testimony	June 4
Xcel Energy Brief	June 6

Staff indicates they are waiving their option to file a reply brief.

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The Company has discussed this proposal with Commission Staff and it is our understanding that Staff supports our requested schedule revision. 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