



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

February 1, 2013

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
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES
DOCKET NO. EL12-046

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 29, 2012. The Commission issued its ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF HEARING (“Order”) in this matter on October 29, 2012.

On January 4, 2013, we requested the Commission’s ordered procedural schedule be suspended until February 4, 2013 to allow for settlement discussions to proceed without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. Settlement discussions between the Company and Commission Staff are progressing and have been constructive. Accordingly, we request that the procedural schedule be extended further by an additional one week period until February 11, 2013.

The Company has discussed this proposal with Commission Staff and it is our understanding that Staff supports our requested suspension. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please contact me at (605) 339-8350.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wilcox'.

JAMES C. WILCOX
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS