



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101-0988

September 21, 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 57501-5070

RE: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO
INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
DOCKET NO. EL12-046

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed please find the Answer of Northern States Power Company to the September 6, 2012 Intervention Petition submitted by Shetek Wind Inc. in the Company's South Dakota Electric rate case proceeding identified above. Should you have any questions about our Answer, I can be reached at 605-339-8350 or james.c.wilcox@xcelenergy.com or please contact Kari Valley at 612-330-4526 or kari.l.valley@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J C Wilcox'.

JAMES C. WILCOX
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Enclosures