



Eric Pauli, Community Relations Manager
500 West Russell Street
P.O. Box 988
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0988
(o) 605 339-8303; (f) 605-339-8204; (c) 605-321-6006
Email: eric.pauli@xcelenergy.com

March 9, 2016

Ms. Patty 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 Approval of 2015
Economic Development Activities and 2016 Budget.

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits the enclosed documents, which are in accordance with Docket EL91-004 and EL12-046, to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for approval of our 2015 Economic Development Activities and 2016 Budget.

The report is organized as follows: The first page reiterates the budget that was planned for the year 2015. The second page depicts the actual economic development investments that Xcel Energy made in 2015. The third page provides the budget that Xcel Energy plans for 2016. The pages following those provide documentation of the actual expenses that Xcel Energy incurred in this program in 2015.

In accordance with ARSD §§ 20:10:01:39 through 42, Xcel Energy respectfully requests confidential treatment of certain information contained in this filing. In compliance with ARSD § 20:10:01:41, we have clearly marked each page containing confidential information as “**CONFIDENTIAL**”.

Pursuant to ARSD § 20:10:01:41, the Company respectfully requests confidential treatment of the information provided in this Data Request. The Company addresses the Commission's five factors for consideration of confidential data as follows:

- (1) We request confidential treatment of all "bank checks" which contain important company information. Each is marked so it can be easily identified.
- (2) The Company requests that the data contained in this report be treated as confidential forever.
- (3) The name, address, and phone number of a person to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request:

Alison Archer
Assistant General Counsel
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, 5th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401

- (4) We request confidential treatment on the grounds that the material is confidential financial information, the disclosure of which would result in material damage to the Company's financial or competitive position. The claim for confidential treatment is based on ARSD § 20:10:01:39(4) and SDCL § 1-27-30. The information contained meets the definition of "trade secret" under SDCL § 37-29-1(4)(1), the South Dakota Uniform Trade Secrets Act, which is defined as information that, "derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and ... is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy."
- (5) The noted documents qualify for confidential treatment because they contain confidential account information for which the Company does not disclose to the public. The disclosure of the account information could adversely affect the Company's finances in the future to the detriment of our customers.

Sincerely,



Eric Pauli