



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

March 19, 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.

We propose to suspend the procedural schedule set forth in the Commission’s Order by two weeks to allow for settlement discussions to proceed without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. We recognize that the suspension would result in the due date for Staff testimony to be delayed until April 6, 2012.

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