



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

April 2, 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, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE IN SOUTH DAKOTA
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 (the "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.

In our letter dated March 19, 2012 in this docket, we proposed to suspend the procedural schedule set forth in the Commission's Order by two weeks so that settlement discussions could continue without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. Under the current schedule, Staff testimony is due April 6.

The Company proposes to extend the procedural schedule an additional three business days to allow settlement discussions to continue. We understand that if a settlement is not reached, Staff testimony will be due April 11. The April 20 due date for the Company's rebuttal testimony will remain in place.

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 C Wilcox'.

JAMES C. WILCOX
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS