



500 West Russell Street  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

January 4, 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 December 4, 2012, we requested the Commission’s ordered procedural schedule be suspended until January 7, 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 proceeding and we request that the procedural schedule be extended for approximately an additional one month until February 4, 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