



500 West Russell Street  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

February 8, 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 DBA XCEL ENERGY  
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES  
DOCKET NO. EL12-046

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, 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.

Several modifications to the procedural schedule have been stipulated to by the parties to allow for settlement discussions to proceed without simultaneously having to contend with testimony deadlines. The Company and Commission Staff now have a settlement agreement in principle. The Company requests that the procedural schedule in this case be suspended while the parties finalize the settlement documents for submission.

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