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February 8, 2016

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VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Jeffery Oxley
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 N. Robert Street
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for Authority
to Increase Rates for Electric Service in Minnesota
MPUC Docket No. E002/GR-15-826
OAH Docket No. 19-2500-33074
Our File No. 2021-18

Dear Judge Oxley:

Attached for filing on behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce in the above-referenced docket, please find the Chamber's Petition to Intervene. Also attached is the Chamber's Certificate of Service.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Richard J. Savelkoul
Richard J. Savelkoul

RJS:wsl
Attachments

cc: Service List

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

600 North Robert St.
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

121 Seventh Place East Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

In the Matter of the Application of)
Northern States Power Company,) MPUC DOCKET NO. E-002/GR-15-826
for Authority to to Increase Rates for) OAH DOCKET NO. 19-2500-33074
Electric Service in Minnesota)

**PETITION TO INTERVENE OF
MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule part 7829.0800, 1400.6200 and the First Prehearing Order, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) hereby respectfully submits its Petition for Intervention in the above referenced proceeding. In support of its Petition, the Chamber states:

I. INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,400 businesses throughout the state of Minnesota. The Chamber’s members vary from the smallest businesses within the state to some of the largest. A significant number of the Chamber’s members are within Northern States Power Company’s (“Xcel”) service territory, and, as a result, some of the Chamber’s members will be parties which will be paying for and under the rates proposed by Xcel. The Chamber deals with statewide issues at a policy level and with concerns businesses have with respect to doing business or continuing to do business within the state, such as

having competitively priced, reliable and environmentally sound energy rates. Energy is one of the primary areas in which the Chamber is currently engaged.

II. GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION

Minn. Rule 7829.0800 subpart 2 sets forth the following grounds for intervention:

The petition must allege the grounds for intervention and must be granted upon a showing that: the person is specifically considered by statute to be interested in the particular type of matter at issue; the person is specifically declared by statute to be an interested party; or the outcome of the proceeding will bind or affect the person with respect to an interest peculiar to that person, as distinguished from an interest common to the public or other ratepayers in general, or the person's interests are not adequately represented by one or more other parties participating in the case.

Rules that govern administrative proceedings in Minnesota Rule Section 1400.6200 essentially use the same factors as interventions at the Commission in Minnesota Rule Section 7829.0800, assessing impact to the intervenor.¹ The Chamber's business members will be affected by decisions made in this proceeding, namely, with respect to price, reliability and appropriate sources of energy. No other party adequately represents the Chamber's interests in this case. The Chamber's participation in this matter will not disadvantage or burden any other party. Finally, the Chamber has an interest distinguished from an interest common to the public or other ratepayers in general.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rule Section 7829.0800, the Chamber is entitled to participate in this proceeding as a party, and the Chamber's Petition to Intervene should be granted.

¹ Minn.R. 1400.6200, subp. 1 (“...petition shall show how the petitioner's legal rights, duties, or privileges may be determined or affected by the contested case; shall show how the petitioner may be directly affected by the outcome or that petitioner's participation is authorized by statute, rule, or court decision; shall set forth the grounds and purposes for which intervention is sought...”)

WHEREFORE, the Chamber respectfully requests that its Petition to Intervene as a party in this proceeding be granted with all rights and privileges attendant to that status.

Dated: February 8, 2016

MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A.

/s/ Richard J. Savelkoul

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**ATTORNEYS FOR MINNESOTA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Wendy S. Latuff, hereby certify that I have this day, served a true and correct copy of the following document to all persons at the addresses on the attached list by electronic filing, electronic mail, courier, interoffice mail or by depositing the same enveloped with postage paid in the United States mail at St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
PETITION TO INTERVENE**

Docket Number **E-002/GR-15-826**
Dated this **8th** day of **February, 2016**

/s/ Wendy S. Latuff

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