



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

July 1, 2015

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Mr. Daniel P. Wolf  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
350 Metro Square Building, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA PUC DOCKET NO. E002/TL-11-152

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA PUC DOCKET NO. E002, ET2/CN-12-113

**COMPLIANCE FILING**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its third compliance report on behalf of itself and Great River Energy in accordance with the Commission's May 12, 2014 Order in the above-referenced dockets.

SINCERELY,

*/s/ Paul J Lehman*

PAUL J LEHMAN  
MANAGER COMPLIANCE & FILINGS

cc: Service Lists

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BEFORE THE  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Beverly Jones Heydinger  
Betsy Wergin  
Nancy Lange  
Dan Lipschultz  
John Tuma

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A  
MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT  
RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT  
COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR  
THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION  
LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF  
PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN  
COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Docket No. E002/TL-11-152  
Docket No. E002, ET2/CN-12-113  
OAH Docket No. 8-2500-23147-2

**COMPLIANCE FILING**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE  
HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE  
PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH  
AND MEDINA

**INTRODUCTION**

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Great River Energy submit this third compliance filing in accordance with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) May 12, 2014 order in the above-referenced dockets (Order). This Order granted Xcel Energy and Great River Energy's petition to withdraw pending applications for a certificate of need and route permit for the Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Project.<sup>1</sup> In addition to granting these withdrawals, the Order also acknowledged the need to address the existing electrical system issues

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<sup>1</sup> As proposed the Hollydale Project sought to rebuild approximately eight miles of existing 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV capacity, construct approximately 0.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line, construct a new 115 kV substation, and install associated equipment in the cities of Plymouth and Medina (Hollydale Project). The Hollydale Project was proposed to address capacity deficiencies on the existing distribution system and to alleviate low voltage conditions on the transmission system when certain facilities are out-of-service.

in the Plymouth and Medina areas. To document Xcel Energy and Great River Energy's continued efforts to address these needs, the Order required the companies to submit compliance filings addressing the following topics: (i) public outreach efforts; (ii) load serving capacity of the distribution system; (iii) any improvements to the distribution system; and (iv) demand-side management (DSM) and other resources available to address the reliability issues in the area. The Order required that these compliance filings be made six months from the date of the Order and quarterly thereafter.

Xcel Energy, on behalf of itself and Great River Energy, has submitted two prior compliance filings, one November 2014 and another in April 2015.

### **UPDATE ON DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT**

After submitting the last compliance filing in April 2015, Xcel Energy has continued to work on phase one of its Demand-Side Management (DSM) outreach plan for the Hollydale area. This has included additional targeted marketing to residential and commercial customers in the following cities: Hamel, Long Lake, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetonka, Minnetrista, Mound, Orono, Plymouth, St. Bonifacius, Spring Park, Watertown, and Wayzata.

There were three DSM marketing campaigns launched during the Spring 2015 time frame and included the Residential Saver's Switch®, Refrigerator Recycling, and Home Lighting programs. The first campaign was for the Residential Saver's Switch, a program that provides an incentive to customers who agree to have their air conditioners controlled to help reduce the demand for electricity during peak electric periods. This marketing campaign consisted of a direct mailing to just under 11,000 residential customers in the target cities. The mailing was sent on May 21, 2015, and to date has resulted in 26 new customer sign-ups in the area with additional sign-ups expected throughout the summer and fall months.

The second campaign promoted the Refrigerator Recycling program. This campaign started on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through the end of August. This program allows participating customers to receive a bonus rebate to recycle their second working refrigerators. To communicate this promotion, information was mailed to approximately 26,000 homes from May through June 2015. The initial mailing resulted in 210 refrigerators being picked up and recycled. Historically, the participation for this program is higher during the summer months, so we anticipate the number to increase through August.

Home Lighting was the third campaign launched. Xcel Energy's Home Lighting program helps customers obtain energy efficient CFL and LED bulbs through their

local hardware store at a discounted price. Some of the participating retailers where residential customers can purchase the discounted bulbs are: Target, ACE Hardware, Batteries Plus, Home Depot, Lowes, and True Value. This campaign started in January 2015 and ended May 2015. During this period of time, Xcel Energy provided discounts totaling \$66,153 toward bulb purchases. This equaled 31,038 energy efficient light bulbs sold through participating retailers which will ultimately save customers over 1.1 million kWh.

Additionally, Xcel Energy will often reach customers with conservation educational information through community events, helping to drive customers to the Company's various DSM program offerings. On April 10 and 11, 2015, Xcel Energy sponsored a booth at the Plymouth Home Show for the first time. Participation from this event provided 102 residential program leads and 16 program sign-ups.

Lastly, discussions have begun for the second phase of the DSM outreach plan. Xcel Energy presented information on the Partners in Energy offering to the City of Plymouth's Environmental Quality Committee. The Committee had several questions and as a follow-up they were provided with additional information on this offering. The City of Plymouth is still evaluating whether or not they will participate in Partners in Energy program. The City of Plymouth did indicate however that if they decided to participate in Partners in Energy, that they would have to wait until fall 2015 before any activity could begin.

#### **UPDATE ON IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL ALTERNATIVES AND OUTREACH**

Since submitting its last compliance filing in April of this year, Xcel Energy has continued to work on completing a comprehensive engineering study of both the electrical needs in Plymouth and Medina and an evaluation of alternatives to meet those identified needs. Xcel Energy intends to hold public meetings to discuss the study and the evaluated alternatives once the study is finalized.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Xcel Energy appreciates the opportunity to update the Commission and other stakeholders on the Company's continued efforts to comply with the Commission's May 12, 2014 Order. Xcel Energy plans to submit its next compliance filing on October 1, 2015.

Dated: July 1, 2015

Northern States Power Company

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

/s/

PAUL J LEHMAN  
MANAGER, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND FILINGS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COOPERATIVE, FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

PUC DOCKET No. E002/TL-11-152

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE HOLLYDALE 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN THE CITIES OF PLYMOUTH AND MEDINA

PUC DOCKET No. E002, ET2/CN-12-113

Theresa A. Senart hereby certifies that on the 1st day of July, 2015, she filed a true and correct copy of Northern States Power Company and Great River Energy's Compliance Filing by posting the same on [www.edockets.state.mn.us](http://www.edockets.state.mn.us) in the above-referenced dockets. Said Compliance Filing is also served via U.S. Mail or e-mail as designated on the attached Official Service Lists on file with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the above-referenced dockets.

*s/Theresa A. Senart*  
Theresa Senart

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