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October --, 2013

Dr. Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Re: *In the Matter of the Request by Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Need for the Great Northern Transmission Line*, MPUC Docket No. E015/CN-12-1163

Dear Dr. Haar:

Minnesota Power hereby submits via E-filing its Application for a Certificate of Need to construct the 500 kV Great Northern Transmission Line and associated facilities (the "Project"). This new large high voltage transmission line, as defined under Minn. Rules 7849.0100, subp. 14, will extend from the Manitoba United States border to Minnesota Power's Blackberry Substation in Itasca County, Minnesota. As discussed in recent dockets before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"), the Project is needed to enable additional deliveries of energy to meet the needs of Minnesota Power and its customers. In addition, the Project benefits the State and region by, among other things, increasing regional transmission system reliability, increasing transfer capability and allowing optimization of renewable energy resources.

Please note that the Application includes a NONPUBLIC Appendix, Appendix D. Public and nonpublic versions of Appendix D have been provided.

Copies of this Application are being served on the parties on the attached distribution list as provided in Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 2. A short summary of the Application is being distributed as required by Minn. Rules 7829.2500, subp. 2.

Please contact me if there are any questions or concerns. Minnesota Power looks forward to working with all parties interested in this proceeding.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

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## **STATEMENT REGARDING JUSTIFICATION FOR EXCISING TRADE SECRET INFORMATION**

Pursuant to the Commission's revised Procedures for Handling Trade Secret and Privileged Data in furtherance of the intent of Minn. Stat. § 13.37 and Minn. Rule Part 7829.0500, Minnesota Power has designated portions of the attached Application as Trade Secret.

The Application requests Approval of a Certificate of Need for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project ("Project"). Appendix D to the Application contains terms and conditions that are materially sensitive to Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro. The information is valuable commercial information to both Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro, and because of the intensely competitive marketplace Manitoba Hydro operates in, this information is also confidential and Trade Secret to Manitoba Hydro. Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro follow strict internal procedures to maintain the secrecy of this information in order to capitalize on the economic value of the information. Potential competitors of both parties would gain a commercial advantage if this information was publicly available, with severe competitive implications resulting.

Minnesota Power believes that this statement justifies why the information excised from the attached filing should remain a trade secret under Minn. Stat. § 13.37. Minnesota Power respectfully requests the opportunity to provide additional justification in the event of a challenge to the trade secret designation provided herein.



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