

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.