

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Edward A. Garvey

Chair

Joel Jacobs

Commissioner

Marshall Johnson

Commissioner

LeRoy Koppendrayer

Commissioner

Gregory Scott

Commissioner

---

To: Northern States Power Company  
Attn: David Sparby  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SERVICE DATE: MARCH 10, 1998

DOCKET NO. E-002/S-97-1652

---

In the Matter of a Request by Northern States Power Company for a Statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission Regarding Investments in Foreign Utility Companies

The above entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

**Approved, subject to the following conditions and limitations:**

- 1) The certification is limited to NRG or other affiliate foreign utility company equity investment in the geographic areas included in this filing up to \$500 million, representing a total foreign utility company investment of 10.7 percent of NSP's total capitalization.
- 2) NSP will provide advance notification of any other intent to acquire any interest in foreign utility companies beyond the \$500 million limit and obtain separate certification for any such additional investments.

- 3) NSP will not encumber any Minnesota property because of these foreign investments.
  - 4) NSP shall file with the Commission:
    - a. Copies of required filings and reports relating to NSP's foreign utility investments filed with the SEC at the time the reports are filed with the SEC;
    - b. Copies of all SEC rulings or Orders in this matter; and
    - c. An annual report on all NSP and subsidiary foreign investments (Annual Report) to be filed one year from the date of Commission approval. The annual report will contain the following information:
      - (1) NSP's total foreign investment to date by subsidiary and country;
      - (2) A list of all outstanding bonds issued for any foreign investment acquired by NSP or its subsidiaries;
- 
- (3) NSP's consolidated capital structure, including short-term debt; and
  - (4) The ratio of NSP's total foreign utility company investments relative to NSP's total assets and capitalization.
- d. The certification is conditioned on and subject to being removed or withdrawn by the Commission as to any future foreign utility company investments if the Commission deems such action is warranted.
5. NSP will inform the Commission in a timely manner of the acquisition of any ownership in any foreign utility under this certification.
6. The Commission, the Department of Public Service, and the OAG will have access to the relevant books, records and financial statements (or copies thereof) of NSP's business with foreign utilities, to the extent necessary to protect NSP's ratepayers.
7. Accounting procedure will remain in place to assure that NSP and its ratepayers are adequately and fairly compensated for any common or joint costs incurred for the benefit of the foreign utility.
8. All Minnesota Regulatory Agencies' costs charged to NSP for the direct costs incurred by those agencies for the future review of foreign investment notification and any related foreign investment compliance reviews shall not be charged to NSP's jurisdictional customers. (NSP will allocate internal time pursuant to the 1008 Docket)
9. Any investment made under this certification shall comply with applicable Minnesota and Federal

law including the Public Utilities Holding Act of 1935, as amended.

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Public Service which are attached and hereby incorporated in the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling (612) 297-4596 (voice), (612) 297-1200 (TTY), or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).