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November 27, 2020

VIA Electronic Filing

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: **Preliminary Application Document, Notice of Intent, Request to Use Traditional Licensing Process, and Request for Designation of Non-Federal Representative**
Hayward Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2417)
Trego Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2711)

Dear Secretary Bose:

In accordance with 18 CFR § 16.6 and Section 15 of the Federal Power Act, Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSPW or Licensee), d/b/a Xcel Energy, Licensee of the Hayward (FERC Project No. 2417) and Trego (FERC Project No. 2711) Hydroelectric Projects (Projects), is hereby electronically filing with the Commission Notices of Intent to File a License Application (NOI) and a Pre-Application Document (PAD) for the relicensing of said Projects. The current licenses for the Projects expire on November 30, 2025.

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, NSPW hereby declares its unequivocal intent to begin the relicensing process for both the Hayward and Trego Projects by filing the enclosed Notices of Intent to file applications for subsequent licenses for the Projects. Along with the NOIs, a Pre-Application Document (PAD) that includes information for both Projects is also enclosed¹.

In accordance with 18 CFR § 5.5(c), the Licensee is providing a copy of the NOI and PAD in electronic format to appropriate federal, state, and interstate resource agencies as well as Indian Tribes, local governments, and members of the public likely to be interested in the relicensing proceedings. A distribution list of all known potential stakeholders receiving copies of the NOI and PAD is enclosed. NSPW will also provide two paper courtesy copies of the NOI and PAD to Commission Staff in the Office of Energy Projects and the Office of General Counsel-Energy Projects as outlined in the Commission's filing guidelines.

Under 18 CFR § 5.3, the Licensee requests approval from the Commission for use of the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP). The TLP should provide cost and time savings to both the Licensee and stakeholders due to the limited geographic scope of the project boundaries, the limited number of anticipated stakeholders, and the lack of controversial issues brought forward in the questionnaire responses. Experience also indicates that the TLP is less costly than the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP).

Due to the limited number of responses received from the questionnaire sent out to the stakeholders and the lack of any expressed opposition, there does not appear to be any objection to the use of the TLP. There also does not appear to be any complex resource issues or anticipated controversy. Therefore, the Licensee anticipates the Commission will be able to complete the timely issuance of subsequent licenses for the Projects.

Since NSPW is the Licensee for both the Hayward and Trego Projects, one PAD for both Projects is being submitted.

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Under 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(1), comments concerning this request to use the TLP must be filed with the Commission within 30 days of the filing date of this request and must include either the FERC project number or the name and address of the Licensee as depicted in the PAD.

To assist in open communication with potential stakeholders, the Licensee plans to use electronic communication as the primary method of communication when feasible. If electronic communication is not feasible, hard copy communication will be utilized. Documents filed with the Commission and provided to stakeholders will also be posted on a website at <http://hydrorelicensing.com>.

Under 18 CFR § 5.3(d)(2), the Licensee shall file no later than the date of this filing notices in a daily or weekly newspaper of general circulation in both Sawyer County, Wisconsin and Washburn County, Wisconsin. The notices shall include the filing date of the PAD and the request to use the TLP. The notices shall also summarize the documents filed, justification for requesting to use the TLP, Licensee's name, address, and telephone number, and indicate that comments are due within 30 days of the public notice filing date. Comments filed in response to the public notices must include the applicable project number and/or the Licensee's name and address, and state that respondents must submit comments to the Secretary of the Commission in accordance with filing procedures outlined in the Commission's website at <http://FERC.gov>.

The public notices shall also state that comments regarding the Licensee's request to use the TLP should address as appropriate the likelihood of timely license issuance, complexity of resource issues, level of anticipated controversy, relative cost of the TLP compared to the ILP, the amount of available information and potential for significant disputes over studies and other factors believed to be pertinent.

A public scoping meeting and site visit will be held between 30 and 60 days of the Commission's decision regarding Licensee's request to use the TLP. Written comments on the PAD must be filed with the Commission and a copy sent to NSPW within 60 days of the public scoping meeting.

Under 18 CFR § 5.5(e), the Licensee formally requests to be designated as the Commission's non-federal representative in relicensing of the Hayward Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2417) and the Trego Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2711) for the purposes of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint regulations under 50 CFR Part 402, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under Section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR § 600.920, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the implementing regulations under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Miller at 715-737-1353 or matthew.j.miller@xcelenergy.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Scott
Crotty**

Digitally signed by
Scott Crotty
Date: 2020.11.24
06:26:18 -06'00'

For: James Zyduck
Director, Hydro Plants

Enclosures

cc: Distribution List