

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Fossil Energy
Washington, D.C.

FE Docket No. PP-63-4

Northern States Power Company

**Presidential Permit Amendment
for the
"Dorsey-Forbes 500 kV Line"**

Order No. PP-63-4

February 13, 1996

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

ORDER NO. PP-63-4

BACKGROUND

The Office of Fossil Energy (FE) of the Department of Energy (DOE) has the responsibility for implementing Executive Order 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, which requires the issuance of Presidential permits for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of electric transmission facilities at the United States international border.

On March 6, 1979, the DOE issued Presidential Permit PP-63 to Northern States Power Company (NSP) for the construction of a 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line which crosses the U.S.-Canada international border approximately seven and one half miles west of Warroad in Roseau County, Minnesota, and extends approximately 200 miles south to a substation in the vicinity of Forbes, Minnesota. On April 14, 1992, in Order PP-63-2¹, DOE issued an amendment to PP-63 authorizing NSP to construct a new substation at the mid-point of the line and to expand and modify four existing substations for the purpose of installing various forms of reactive compensation. The impact of these physical alterations was to increase the electricity import capability of the 500-kV line to 1850 megawatts (MW).

On September 20, 1995, NSP applied to FE to further amend PP-63. In its application, NSP requests that the electricity import capability of the 500-kV line be increased from 1850 MW to 1950 MW. In its application, NSP claims that recent analyses performed by the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) have demonstrated that the 500-kV line could be operated reliably at higher transfer limits in the import mode. Accordingly, NSP requests that the import limits contained in Article 14 of PP-63 be increased consistent with the recent MAPP analyses.

Notice of the application was placed in the Federal Register on October 30, 1995, (60 FR 55257) soliciting comments, protests, or requests to intervene. No responses to that notice were received.

FINDING

After a review of the information in the Docket, DOE has determined that the granting of the requested amendment would not adversely impact the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. An analysis in support of this determination also has been placed in this Docket.

¹Two other amendments, administrative in nature, have been issued in this docket by Orders PP-63-1 on May 8, 1985, and August 24, 1992.

On April 14, 1992, in FE Docket PP-63-2, NSP was authorized to make significant physical changes to the subject transmission facilities. During this earlier proceeding, DOE prepared an environmental assessment to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 USC 4321, et seq. The environmental factors, findings and conclusions contained in that document remain unchanged. Since the present amendment requested by NSP would merely increase the allowable power transfer limits on the line and would require no changes to the physical facilities or the environment, DOE is using the environmental assessment and the subsequent Finding of No Significant Impact prepared in Docket PP-63-2 in satisfaction of its NEPA responsibilities in this proceeding.

The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense have favorably recommended that the requested amendment be granted.

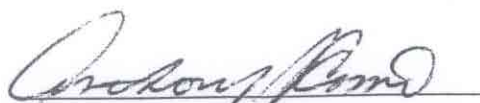
Based on the above, DOE finds that amending Presidential Permit PP-63 as requested by NSP is consistent with the public interest.

ORDER

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 10485, as amended by Executive Order 12038, and the Rules and Regulations thereunder (Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, section 205.320 et seq.), Article 14 of Presidential Permit PP-63 is amended by this Order to read as follows:

Article 14: The facilities described in Article 2 will be designed and operated in accordance with the applicable criteria established by the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool, and consistent with those of the North American Electric Reliability Council. The subject facilities shall be operated under the terms and conditions set forth in the NSP Diversity Exchange Agreement between NSP and Manitoba Hydro dated February 1, 1991, until April 30, 2019. Furthermore, the existing 500-kV transmission line initially authorized by Presidential Permit PP-63 shall be operated in the import mode at a power transfer level not to exceed 1950 MW.

Issued in Washington, D.C., February 13, 1996.



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Office of Fuels Programs
Office of Fossil Energy