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SEC

SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE JULY 15, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. 42059

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
MINNESOTA D/B/A XCEL ENERGY

v.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Decided: July 15, 2003

By petition filed July 11, 2003, complainant Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (NSP) and defendant Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) jointly request an order holding this rate complaint proceeding in abeyance and temporarily suspending further processing of the complaint, to and including July 31, 2003, to give the parties adequate time to finalize a tentative settlement they have reached resolving the dispute. According to the parties, their proposed settlement should be concluded on or before July 31, 2003, and NSP will then petition the Board to dismiss its complaint with prejudice. If these matters are not concluded by that date, however, the parties state that they will advise the Board of the status of the settlement and what further action they seek at that time.

Granting the parties' joint request to hold this proceeding in abeyance, and to withhold issuance of a decision on the merits of this complaint, will facilitate a privately negotiated resolution of this dispute and will not prejudice any party. The petition will be granted.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is held in abeyance. The parties will advise the Board on the status of their settlement agreement by July 31, 2003.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary