

Major Ibbs,

Thanks for your email. You make some excellent points, and we will certainly be keeping them in mind as we move forward through this proceeding. Under state law and past court decisions, Xcel must be allowed reasonable recovery of their prudently-incurred expenses. That being said, it is the Commission's job to determine (within reason) what is "reasonable" and what is "prudent." We do not want South Dakotans to pay any more than they should be for their electricity for many of the reasons you mentioned.

Thanks again for your comments. I'll make sure they are added to the record of this proceeding.

Thanks,
Dusty

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
605-773-3201

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Ibbs

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 11:56 AM

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC); Gary Hanson; Steve Kolbeck

Subject: Proposed electric bill rate increase.

I am very concerned about the proposed increase in electricity rates. I work for a non-profit organization and we are seeing people on a daily basis who cannot pay their utility bills along with their rent and are in danger of losing their housing. Many of these people live in apartments that charge a low rent to begin with and do all they can to keep their electricity use to a minimum. Many of them are the "working poor" who have minimum wage jobs, often more than one, and who are still having a very hard time making ends meet.

During this difficult time it is becoming almost impossible for many families to make ends meet. A 12.5% increase is too much for them to handle. This increase is way beyond the rate of inflation. Seniors living on a fixed income will be forced to choose between heat/light and food. Families who have just been able to squeek through on their current income will not be able to pay the additional costs.

I understand that the electrical companies are not a non-profit agency, and must be able to pay their employees and the costs of electric generation. However, I am asking the Public Utilities Commission to at least reduce the increase by half, and to delay that increase until the summer of 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda K. Ibbs, Major
The Salvation Army
Sioux Falls, SD 57103