

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:24 PM  
**To:** Hanson, Gary (PUC)  
**Subject:** Xcel energy proposed rate hike

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing as a concerned citizen. I recently read on a the KSFY website that Xcel energy is proposing a rate hike for their customers in Southeast South Dakota and that this rate increase would need approval from the Public Utilities Commission. I and my family of 5 are some of these consumers. My husband and I both hold down jobs and still struggle to meet the basic needs of our family. With all of the rate/price increases that have been added to the basics over the last few years, our family is fighting just to maintain what we have. If this utility rate increase is approved we will not only see our utility bills go up almost 10% but I have no doubt that many of the other necessities will increase in price to offset the overhead costs of the retailers and service providers rising. I realize that some of the reason for the increase is improving infrastructure and meeting regulations. However, I urge you to consider turning this rate increase down. We are all hoping that the economy and our individual situations can improve over the next few years. At that time, an increase can be considered. When consumers are using all of their income for the basics, nothing else is bought; therefore the economy stagnates. If something is not done at a government level, we can not hope for things to improve. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Tawny Palmiotto  
Sioux Falls, SD