

**From:** Hanson, Gary (PUC)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 1:20 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Xcel energy proposed rate hike

Tawny,

Thank you for expressing your strong concerns in such an articulate, sincere, and respectful fashion. Please understand that my responsibility is to protect the consumer as well as the utility. You may be confident that I will work to be certain that the utility receives what they justifiably need in order to continue to run their facility and provide a reliable and safe service and that I will endeavor to make certain they do not receive any greater amount than they absolutely need. As a consumer and a parent with three grown children with families and parents who are living independently I am also very concerned with the economic challenges and increasing costs in our state. I will do my best for you. Because of the open meeting laws and this is a docketed item I am limited as to what I am able to express to you. Additionally, I am required to share all of my correspondence regarding this docket with all the parties of this docket.

This was just filed today and I do not have the docket number. Because it is rather late, I will send the number to you with additional information later today so that you may follow the progress of the docket on the internet and web.

Thank you for contacting us.

Gary

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:23 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 off set 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

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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