



Chris Nelson, Chair
Kristie Fiogen, Vice Chair
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 18, 2012

H. Johns Martin

[REDACTED]
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Dear Mr. Martin,

Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission regarding Xcel Energy's request to increase rates. In order for the commissioners and other interested in the rate case to see your comments, they will be made part of the official docket. The rate docket and its filings are posted online at www.puc.sd.gov. Click on "Commission Actions", "Commission Dockets," "2012 Electric Dockets," and "EL12-046".

You may also wish to access a document which explains how a rate case is processed by the commission. You will find document on the PUC's web site under "Miscellaneous," then "Publications & Forms," and click on the document under the "Brochures" heading: "Electric Rate Increase Requests."

We do understand increases are difficult to handle, especially for individuals and companies with limited means to increase income or revenues. I can assure you that none of the PUC commissioners or staff wishes to increase utility rates for South Dakota. The commissioners are also consumers and understand how increased costs affect individuals and businesses. Please be assured that the commissioners and staff take their jobs very seriously and they carefully review rate filing as well as other utility filings on behalf of South Dakotans.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write. The PUC commissioners appreciate hearing from the affected consumers about issues before them.

Sincerely,

Deb Gregg

Consumer Affairs Manager