

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
FOR APPROVAL OF MISCELLANEOUS  
TARIFF REVISIONS

DOCKET NO. EL17-\_\_\_\_

**PETITION**

**OVERVIEW**

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission this Petition for approval of miscellaneous tariff revisions to our Electric Rate Book.

We request approval of minor revisions to the back of the Standard Billing Form and the back of the Disconnect Notice. The proposed changes to the backs of the Standard Billing Form and Disconnection Notice include minor style modifications and adding sentences noting that there is a processing fee when paying with a credit/debit card or at a pay station. Currently the back of the Disconnection Notice has a specific processing fee for credit/debit card payments listed. However, in light of upcoming changes to credit/debit card processing fees (explained in more detail below), we request to remove the specific processing fee amount from the back of the Disconnection Notice, and to add a sentence noting that there is a processing fee for each credit/debit card transaction. The Company seeks Commission approval to reflect these changes via modified tariff sheets in Section 8 of our Electric Rate Book.

The following attachments are included with this Petition in clean and redline formats:

- Attachment A: Back of the Standard Billing Form
- Attachment B: Back of the Disconnect Notice
- Attachment C: Tariff Sheets

The following information is provided in accordance with South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:13:26, the tariff schedule change notification requirements.

**(1) Name and Address of the Public Utility**

Northern States Power Company  
500 West Russell Street  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104  
(605) 339-8350

**(2) Section and Sheet Number of Tariff Schedule**

Xcel Energy proposes to revise the following sheets in Section 8 of the Northern States Power Company South Dakota Electric Rate Book.

Sheet No. 8-2.3, revision 3 – Back of the Standard Billing Form  
Sheet No. 8-6, revision 3 – Back of the Disconnection Notice

Attachment C contains the proposed tariffs in Legislative and Non-Legislative format.

**(3) Description of the Tariff Change**

We seek approval to revise the back of our Standard Billing Form and the back of our Disconnect Notice.

**(4) Reason for the Requested Change**

The proposed revisions to the back of the Standard Billing Form and the back of the Disconnect Notice are minor and intended to increase the clarity of the Company’s communication and reduce complaints. These changes do not impact the Company’s compliance with South Dakota Rule 20:10:17:03, which governs the information the Company provides on its bills to customers, and the Disconnection of Gas and Electric Service rules contained in South Dakota Rules Chapter 20:10:20.

As a result of our renewed contract with Fiserv/Billmatrix – the Company that processes credit/debit card payments made to Xcel Energy – early this summer we will begin implementing new credit/debit card processing fees due to increasing use and high processing costs for commercial credit cards<sup>1</sup>. Also, the Company will no longer be able to accept payments using American Express credit cards due to their high processing costs. However, we will still accept payments using debit cards<sup>2</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> A commercial credit card is a card that is issued by a bank that is targeted to mid-to-large size companies and primarily used to pay business expenditures. These cards usually have “Corporate” or “Business” displayed directly on the card.

<sup>2</sup> All debit cards are non-commercial cards.

VISA, MasterCard and Discover credit cards. The new fee structure will be based on the type of card used (non-commercial or commercial) versus our current process of having a flat fee for all customers.

Of the credit/debit card payments received by Xcel Energy, approximately 97 percent are non-commercial card payments. Customers using a non-commercial card will see a reduction in the processing fee from the current fee of \$3.45 per transaction to \$2.90 per transaction, with a max payment of \$1,000. The remaining 3 percent who use commercial credit cards will see an increase to better capture the cost of processing these types of credit cards. The commercial credit card processing fee will increase from the current fee of \$3.45 per transaction to \$29.95 per transaction, with a max payment of \$3,000. By changing the fee structure, the customers causing the larger cost will pay the larger fee, which will allow the fee to be reduced for the vast majority of customers.

We will communicate this change to our customers who currently use commercial credit cards to pay their Xcel Energy bill through account management, the Business Solutions Center, email, customer visits, bill onserts and on xcelenergy.com.

In line with this new fee structure, we propose to remove the specific fee amount from the back of the Disconnection Notice and to instead note there is a processing fee charged when paying by credit/debit card. For consistency, we propose to add a sentence noting there is a fee when making a payment at a pay station. We also propose to revise the credit/debit card and pay station portions of the back of the Standard Billing Form to match the back of the Disconnection Notice. We believe these changes will make it clear to customers that making a payment by credit/debit card or at a pay station will require a processing fee.

Lastly, we propose minor text and style changes to both backs as shown in the attachments to this filing.

**(5) Present Rate**

Not applicable.

**(6) Proposed Rate**

Not applicable.

**(7) Proposed effective date of modified rate:**

Xcel Energy proposes that the revised tariffs be effective on the date of the Order approving this Petition.

**(8) Approximation of annual amount of increase or decrease in revenue**

Not applicable.

**(9) Points affected:**

Approximately 92,000 South Dakota customers.

**(10) Estimation of the number of customers whose cost of service will be affected and annual amounts of either increases or decreases, or both, in cost of service to those customers.**

Not applicable.

**(11) Statement of facts, expert opinions, documents, and exhibits to support the proposed changes.**

Please see the Company's response to Section 4, Reason for the Requested Change.

**COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING FILING**

**Utility Employee Responsible for Filing**

Steve T. Kolbeck  
Principal Manager  
Xcel Energy Services Inc.  
500 W Russell Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
(605) 339-8350

We request that all communications regarding this proceeding, including data requests, pleadings, documents and other filings also be directed to:

Carl Cronin  
Regulatory Administrator  
Xcel Energy Services Inc.  
414 Nicollet Mall, 401 - 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
[Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com](mailto:Regulatory.Records@xcelenergy.com)

## **CONCLUSION**

The Company respectfully requests the Commission approve our proposed tariff revisions.

Dated: March 7, 2017

Northern States Power Company