

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF  
XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL TO RENEW ) REVISIONS  
THE CUSTOMER BUYBACK PROGRAM ) EL03-018**

On May 27, 2003, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) Minneapolis, Minnesota, filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) proposed revisions to its South Dakota Electric Rate Book - SDPUC No. 2, specifically the Customer Buyback Program Tariff:

Section No. 8, 2nd Revised Sheet Nos. 13, 14 and 15, canceling 1st Revised Sheet Nos. 13, 14 and 15

The Customer Buyback Program Tariff allows Xcel to make energy purchases from its South Dakota customers who voluntarily agree to interrupt their firm load. Xcel is seeking renewal of this program originally approved on July 20, 2000 (EL00-013) and renewed on June 19, 2002 (EL02-007). Xcel is requesting that the tariff be permanently enabled thus eliminating the renewal process.

On May 29, 2003, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 13, 2003, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 1, 2003, the Commission considered approval of the application. Commission Staff recommended approval as filed with the continuation of the restrictions and reporting requirements found in EL00-013.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A. The Commission voted to approve the tariff revisions. The Commission finds the revisions are just and reasonable. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel's revised tariff, as described above, is approved as filed with the continuation of the restrictions and reporting requirements found in EL00-013, and it shall be effective for service rendered on and after the date of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of July, 2003.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Delaine Kolbo</u>
Date: <u>7/16/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner