

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER OF ASSESSMENT
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)	OF FILING FEE AND
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO)	SUSPENSION OF
INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)	IMPOSITION OF TARIFF
)	EL09-009

On June 30, 2009, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its service territory by approximately \$18.6 million annually or approximately 12.7% based on Xcel's 2008 test year. Of this increase in base rates, approximately \$2.9 million is currently being collected through Xcel's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider and Environmental Cost Recovery Rider, which NSP is proposing to subsequently recover in base rates. Consequently, the annual increase in overall retail rates is approximately \$15.7 million or approximately 10.65%. The company states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see a net increase of 12.4 percent, or \$8.55 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 81,000 customers in Xcel's service territory.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 14, 2009, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the deputy executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Further, an intervention deadline of September 15, 2009, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel for 90 days beyond July 30, 2009. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the deputy executive director, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the deputy executive director, not to exceed the statutory limit; it is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 90 days beyond July 30, 2009, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14; and it is further

ORDERED, that the deadline for filing petitions to intervene in this case is September 15, 2009.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of July, 2009.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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, electronically.

By: *Delaine Kalbo*

Date: *7/22/09*

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman *de*

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner