

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

**THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY DBA
XCEL ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO
INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES**

**ORDER OF ASSESSMENT
OF FILING FEE AND
SUSPENSION OF
IMPOSITION OF TARIFF**

EL11-019

On June 30, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$14.6 million annually or approximately 9.28% based on Xcel's 2010 test year. In addition, Xcel is proposing to recover approximately \$1 million of ongoing investments in its Monticello nuclear generating plant through a Nuclear Cost Recovery Rider to go into effect with the final rates. Xcel states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of 9.48%, or \$6.93 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 84,000 customers in Xcel's South Dakota service territory. On July 7, 2011, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 9, 2011, to interested individuals and entities.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$125,000) 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 12, 2011, 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 Commission up to the statutory limit of \$125,000. Further, an intervention deadline of September 9, 2011, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel for 180 days beyond June 30, 2011. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the Commission, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the Commission, not to exceed the statutory limit. It is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days beyond June 30, 2011, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14; and it is further

ORDERED, that the deadline for filing petitions to intervene in this case is September 9, 2011.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20th day of July, 2011.

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:	<u><i>Janis Ardahl</i></u>
Date:	<u>7.20.11</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HAMSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Vice Chairman