

**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 FOR AND NOTICE**  
) **OF PROCEDURAL**  
) **SCHEDULE AND NOTICE OF**  
) **HEARING**  
)  
) **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. No persons requested intervention.

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. On July 12, 2011, the Commission voted unanimously to assess Xcel a filing fee not to exceed the statutory limit, to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel for 180 days beyond June 30, 2011, and to establish an intervention deadline of September 9, 2011. On November 4, 2011, Xcel filed its Notice of Intent to Implement Interim Rates.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, and 49-34A-21.

The procedural schedule shall be as follows:

March 23, 2012	Staff Testimony Due
April 20, 2012	Xcel Rebuttal Testimony Due
May 1-3, 2012	Hearing

A hearing shall be held commencing at 1:30 p.m., with marking of exhibits to begin at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, and continuing at 9:00 a.m., on May 2 and May 3, 2012, in Room 414, State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing is open to the public. All persons testifying shall be subject to cross-examination.

The issue at the hearing is whether the Commission shall grant Xcel's request to implement revised electric rate schedules designed to produce additional annual revenues of approximately \$14.6 million.

The hearing will be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights may be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If a party or its representative fails to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing, the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission will determine whether to grant Xcell's request to implement revised electric rate schedules designed to produce additional annual revenues of approximately \$14.6 million. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings except as modified by order of the Commission or stipulation of the parties. It is further

ORDERED, that the hearing shall commence at 1:30 p.m., with marking of exhibits to begin at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, and continuing at 9:00 a.m., on May 2 and May 3, 2012, in Room 414, State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28 day of February, 2012.

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>Joy King</u>
Date:	<u>2-28-12</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner