

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

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

) **ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE  
) AND SUSPENDING OPERATION  
) OF PROPOSED RATES**

) **EL12-046**

On June 29, 2012, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Electric Rates in South Dakota (Application) filed 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 \$19.368 million annually or approximately 11.53% based on Xcel's 2011 test year. Xcel states that a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of 12.7%, or \$9.82 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 85,000 customers in Xcel's South Dakota service territory. On July 5, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 7, 2012, to interested individuals and entities.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 17, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. In accordance with Staff's recommendation, the Commission voted unanimously to assess Xcel a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 and to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14 for 180 days after the Application filing date of June 29, 2012. It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000), with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission. It is further

**ORDERED**, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after June 29, 2012, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of July, 2012.

<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, electronically.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>July 23rd, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner