

**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)

EL14-058**

On June 23, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates (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 \$15.6 million annually or approximately 8.0% based on Xcel's 2013 test year. Xcel states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of \$8.49 per month, or 9.71%. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 87,000 customers in Xcel's South Dakota service territory. Xcel proposes an effective date of January 1, 2015.

On June 26, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of September 12, 2014, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. As of the date of this order, five comments and six responses from Commissioners had been filed.

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 as part of a general rate case. 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 8, 2014, 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 for expenses related to the general rate case. 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) for expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission for actual expenses incurred.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of July, 2014.

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 Lashley</u>
Date:	<u>07-09-14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner