

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF NORTHERN  
STATES POWER COMPANY DBA XCEL ENERGY  
FOR APPROVAL OF A CREDIT MECHANISM FOR  
A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SETTLEMENT  
PAYMENT**

**ORDER APPROVING  
CREDIT MECHANISM**

**EL16-001**

On January 8, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval of a credit mechanism for funds received pursuant to an extended Settlement (Settlement) with the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for DOE's partial breach of its contract to take spent nuclear fuel. Xcel also requested approval to include the interest earned on the single purpose account established to receive the initial payment, minus bank fees. According to the Petition, Xcel and DOE reached an agreement to extend the Settlement for an additional three-year period, 2014-2016. The gross amount currently available for credit is approximately \$13.1 million on a total NSP system basis, or \$685,514 on a South Dakota jurisdictional basis for damages incurred during the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Future bill credits from the extended Settlement for years 2014-2016 will also be credited back to customers in a timely matter using the same bill credit mechanism consistent with the Commission's Order in Docket EL11-023. As future payments are received, Xcel will make a compliance filing within 30-days following the receipt of any future payments and shall provide the same form of documentation consistent with the Commission's Order in Docket EL11-023.

On January 14, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 29, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-12.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 12, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the continuation of the one-time bill credit mechanism that was previously established in EL11-023. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel's request for the continuation of the one-time bill credit mechanism including the interest earned on the single purpose account, minus the bank fees, is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016.

<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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>02/17/2016</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner