

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

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION)
STAFF'S REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
DBA XCEL ENERGY'S PROPOSED FUEL)
CLAUSE RIDER)**

**ORDER SUSPENDING
FUEL CLAUSE RIDER FOR 180
DAYS

EL16-037**

On November 30, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (NSP) regarding its monthly fuel clause rider (FCR), to be effective December 1, 2016. On November 30, 2016, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a Petition to suspend the FCR for 180 days to allow adequate time for Staff to evaluate whether certain Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs) requested for cost recovery through the FCR are reasonable and cost effective. Since the costs associated with specific PPAs are not identified in the FCR filing, Staff requests suspension to review not only the specific PPAs that have already been identified, but also additional resources that may be identified through Staff's investigation.

On December 1, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 16, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments had been filed. NSP is a party to the docket.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-13, 49-34A-14, and 49-34A-25. SDCL 49-34A-14 authorizes the Commission to suspend the operation of proposed rates for 180 days following the date on which the proposed rates were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. In response to Commission questions, Staff clarified that by suspending the FCR, the FCR rates in effect during November, as filed on October 31, 2016, will remain in effect through the suspension period. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the FCR filed on November 30, 2016, for 180 days after the filing date. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed fuel clause rider shall be suspended for 180 days after November 30, 2016. It is further

ORDERED, that the fuel clause rider filed on October 31, 2016, shall remain in effect.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of December, 2016.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Adam Detbeck</u>
Date: <u>12/12/16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner