

From: Ashley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:45 PM
To: PUC <PUCPF@state.sd.us>
Subject: RE: [EXT] FW: Xcel Energy rate hikes

Company proposing rate increase: Xcel Energy

Commenter's full name: Ashley Larson

Mailing address: [REDACTED], Sioux Falls SD 57108

Email address: [REDACTED]

Phone number: [REDACTED]

Hello,

I'm emailing in regards to the huge rate increases for electricity from Xcel energy. I have a modest single-family home supported by one income, and have watched our rates increase to 150-175% of what we were spending last winter. I can only imagine what the electricity bill will be running the AC sparingly (we typically keep our house at 78 degrees in the summer) and it will likely cost >\$200 compared to our typical \$125 summer bills with AC.

Our highest bill ever received was this previous billing cycle for February, for \$140 in the winter with no AC and keeping our furnace set at 64 all winter. I have 3 children under 5 and my kids are used to the cooler winter temps we have our home set at, but I can hardly imagine the bills for most families that keep their homes closer to 70 degrees in the winter. And for what it's worth, we are a household with two TVs, two cell phones, and one PC; minimal use of electronics is our norm and we don't have a pool, hot tub, sauna, or anything else that would cause us to use a ridiculous amount of electricity. This entire winter, our bills have showed that even though we've used less electricity than the previous year, the cost per day is continuing to climb higher. I don't understand how working families can continue to afford these types of utility increases when the costs of everything else continue to increase as well.

I've also read about several impacts to our area schools with the rate increases, when they already have issues paying their teachers enough and they now have to decide to cut staff, programs, or such to balance the ridiculous increases in basic utilities.

Just thought you could use the voice of another concerned working parent to see how these utility hikes for basic necessities can make it really difficult for us to afford living in this community.

Thank you,

Ashley Larson