

From: PUC

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:28 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: EL22-017

Ms. Larson,

This is in response to your email to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission regarding Xcel Energy's proposed rate increase, docket [EL22-017](#), currently being analyzed by the commission's staff and their expert witnesses, as well as by my fellow commissioners and me.

I understand your concern about your large bill increase and how that affects your family budget. Given your increase, please call 605-773-3201 and request to talk with a PUC Consumer Affairs staff member. They can also guide you through how Xcel's interim rates affect each line item of your bill and discuss moving to a budget billing plan, if you wish.

Xcel filed documents with the commission on June 30, 2022, requesting an overall 17.9% increase in revenue. My fellow commissioners and I suspended the rate increase for six months, the maximum allowed by state law, while this docket is being reviewed and additional financial information and supporting documents are being requested of the company and analyzed. Now that interim rates have been implemented by Xcel, any balance between each final determined customer class rate along with interest will be refunded to customers following the one year maximum docket processing timeline. During this docket's processing, the commission's staff and experts – as well as commissioners – unravel and question the reasoning behind Xcel's request. This is how we determine what expenses are appropriate and which require further questions and data or are unacceptable. State law guides this entire rate review process.

Xcel's prior base rate increase was docket EL14-058. The increase request was 8 percent, filed with the commission on June 23, 2014, and the commission determined a 4 percent increase was justifiable in that case, effective July 1, 2015.

None of us wishes to see our energy rates increase, so it is vitally important that we do a thorough job analyzing the volumes of information provided and requested of the company to reach a sound, lawful decision. If you have not already, I encourage you to review the online docket as it contains a great deal of information that may interest and inform you. You will learn more about how and why such rate increase requests are processed by reading the [Information Guide to Electric Rate Increase Requests](#) and this [FAQ](#).

Since commissioners have a decision-making role in docket matters, any discussion with a commissioner about an open or imminent docket must be done or shared via a public forum. Thus, your email and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in this docket.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns with my fellow commissioners and me.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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