

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: EL22-017

Ms. Clark,

This is in response to your emails to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioners regarding your Xcel Energy billing statement and the utility's proposed rate increase, docket [EL22-017](#). The commissioners have asked that staff follow up with you since this is an open docket, currently being analyzed by staff and their expert witnesses, as well as separately by each commissioner.

Xcel filed with the commission on June 30, 2022, requesting to implement an overall 17.9% increase in revenue. The overall increase request affects five classes and 16 sub-classes of the utility's customers. State law allows the commissioners to suspend the rate increase for a maximum of six months while this docket is being reviewed and additional financial information and supporting documents are being requested of the company and analyzed. The commission has one full year to analyze, request additional information from the utility, and ultimately make a decision on the justified rate for such a docket. That first six months has ended and interim rates have been implemented by Xcel. Thus, any balance between the commission's final determined customer class rate, with interest, and the interim rate will be refunded to you at the end of this one-year period. The commission's staff with their experts, and separately commissioners, continue to question the data and reasoning provided by Xcel. This is how the commission determines what expenses are appropriate and which require further questions and data before being deemed acceptable or unacceptable. State law guides the entire rate review process.

Xcel's last rate increase was docket EL14-058. Xcel filed that case with the commission on June 23, 2014, requesting an increase of 8 percent. After about a year of questioning and data review, the commission decided on a 4 percent increase and that went into effect on July 1, 2015.

This [Information Guide to Electric Rate Increase Requests](#) and [FAQ](#) will help you understand why and how such rate increase requests are processed by the commission. Please call 605-773-3201 and request to speak with member of the PUC Consumer Affairs staff. Each Xcel customer class has specific billing categories, so they will discuss your individual statement with you.

Since you reached out directly to commissioners, your email and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in this docket, with your personal information

redacted. Please refer to [Contact PUC](#) and this [Informational Guide](#) to understand why communication with a commissioner on an open docket must be avoided or be public.

Thank you for reaching out to the commission.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff

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