

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:20 PM  
**To:** [Tami.Clark@firstpremier.com](mailto:Tami.Clark@firstpremier.com)  
**Subject:** EL22-017

Ms. Clark,

A member of the Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Affairs staff will contact you directly regarding your questions concerning your Xcel Energy bill and the rate case docket, EL22-017.

As was relayed to you via the March 1 response from PUC staff, send questions concerning an open docket by emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us) or calling 605-773-3201. Here is an excerpt from the [Information Guide to Electric Rate Increase Requests](#) document provided to you earlier, linked in the docket, and posted on the website home page.

*Submit comments. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments about an active rate case to the PUC. These informal public comments are reviewed and considered by the PUC commissioners and staff. **Comments should include the docket number or name of the company proposing the rate increase, commenter's full name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number. These comments should be emailed to [puc@state.sd.us](mailto:puc@state.sd.us) or mailed or hand delivered to PUC, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. Comments are posted in the "Comments" section of the docket within a reasonable time after having been received.***

Here is an excerpt from the [Contact PUC](#) tab on the website home page.

**If you wish to submit a comment on a PUC docket, send it to [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us). Do not send docket-related comments directly to commissioners or staff. Please read the guidelines about what information must be submitted with your comment and other guidelines.**

**Do not include commissioners on further correspondence about an open docket. Pursuant to state law, communication with individual commissioners about dockets that are before them may constitute ex parte communication. South Dakota Codified Law 1-26-26 reads as follows:**

***1-26-26. Ex parte communications by agency personnel in contested cases-- Investigating officer disqualified from decision making--Authorized communications.***

*Unless required for the disposition of ex parte matters authorized by law, members of the governing board or officers or employees of an agency assigned to render a decision or to make findings of fact and conclusions of law in a contested case may not communicate, directly or indirectly, in connection with any issue of fact, with any person or party, nor, in connection with any issue of law, with any party or the party's representative, except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. If one or more members of a board or commission or a member or employee of an agency, who is assigned to render a decision in a contested case, took part in an investigation upon which the contested case is based, the member or employee may not participate in the conduct of the hearing nor take part in rendering the decision on the contested case. However, the member or employee may appear as a witness and give advice as to procedure. If, because of the disqualification, there is no person assigned to conduct the hearing or render the decision, the agency shall appoint a person to fulfill those duties. A person assigned to render a decision:*

- (1) May communicate with other members of the agency; and*
- (2) May have the aid and advice of one or more personal assistants.*

It **is** appropriate to communicate with – and ask your question directly of – a member of the commission’s Consumer Affairs staff, and they will respond to you regarding your specific Xcel Energy bill and billing options.

Your additional comments will be posted under Comments and Responses in the EL22-017 docket.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff

[PUC.sd.gov](http://PUC.sd.gov)