

**From:** PUC

**Sent:** Thursday, December 1, 2022 12:22 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** EL22-017

Ms. Reiffenberger,

Thank you for sending your message regarding Xcel Energy's requested rate increase, docket, [EL22-017](#), currently being reviewed by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Yes, inflation and the rising costs for utilities along with so many other life necessities is of extreme concern to me. It is particularly concerning for low wage-earners and persons relying on Social Security to cover living expenses.

Xcel filed their rate case on June 30, 2022, requesting a 17.9% increase in revenue. The PUC suspended the increase for six months as we are allowed by state law. The commission has up to one year by law to fully review and process these types of cases, including requesting additional data from the utility. PUC analysts and attorneys are conducting this review along with expert witnesses, in addition to my fellow commissioners and me. We are working to determine what percentage increase, if any, we believe is appropriate and justifiable by the utility's financial information and state law. Xcel's previous rate increase request was 8 percent, filed on June 23, 2014, and the commission determined that only a 4 percent increase was justified, effective July 1, 2015.

You may wish to read through some of the documents filed in this docket to better understand the issues of the case. My fellow commissioners and I are prohibited to say no to any rate increase request filed in accordance with the law without fully vetting the facts and reasoning for the request. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

This [Electric Rate Increase Requests Information Guide](#), posted on the commission's website home page and in the docket, explains the processing of such a docket. As you will see, all communication with a commissioner on an open docket must be made available to the public. Thus, your email and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

Thank you for reaching out.

Gary Hanson, Commissioner  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[PUC.sd.gov](http://PUC.sd.gov)