

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2023 9:45 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EL22-017

Ms. Salonen,

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.

Xcel filed documents with the commission on June 30, 2022, requesting an overall 17.9% increase in revenue. This overall increase affects Xcel's five customer classes and 16 customer sub-classes. 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 unravel and question the reasoning behind Xcel's request. Additional data requests to Xcel are made and analyzed throughout this process. This is how we determine what expenses are appropriate and which require further questions and data or are deemed 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.

You will learn more about how such rate increase requests are processed by reading the [Information Guide to Electric Rate Increase Requests](#) and this [FAQ](#). If you wish to learn how Xcel's interim rates affect each line item of your bill with a Consumer Affairs staff member at the commission, please call 605-773-3201 to request this.

The commission must fully analyze and process any rate increase request from an investor-owned utility. We cannot simply deny any such request that is lawfully filed with us. None of us wishes to see our energy rates increase, so it is important

that we do a thorough job analyzing the volumes of information provided and requested of the utility 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.

Thank you for taking the time to write to my fellow commissioners and me to share your concerns along with excerpts of your Xcel billing history. Your email and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in this docket.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
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