

From: PUC
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 1:54 PM
To: Lowery, Jennifer
Subject: EL22-017

Tea School Board Members and Superintendent Lowery,

This is in response to your letter 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 a 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 the interim rate has been implemented by Xcel, any balance between the final determined 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, as we work to determine what expenses are appropriate and which require further questions and data or are simply unacceptable. State law guides us through this entire rate review process.

Xcel's prior 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](#).

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. Your letter and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in this docket.

Thank you for taking the time to write to my fellow commissioners and me to share your concerns. You can be assured that those of us involved in this extensive review and decision will be diligent in our handling of this docket.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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