

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)	CONTINUATION OF CREDIT
DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF A)	MECHANISM; ORDER
CREDIT MECHANISM FOR PAYMENTS)	APPROVING BILL CREDIT
FROM THE FOURTH EXTENDED)	
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SETTLEMENT)	EL24-036

On November 27, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) asking for approval of a continuation of a credit mechanism for funds received pursuant to the fourth extended Settlement with the United States Department of Energy (DOE) for DOE's partial breach of its contract to take spent nuclear fuel. The gross amount currently available for credit is approximately \$10.6 million on a total company basis, or \$605,967 on a South Dakota jurisdictional basis. Xcel also requested a waiver of the 90-day requirement and an additional sixteen weeks to return the fifteenth Settlement Payment Due to frequent extension requests rising from refunds in other jurisdictions, staff and Xcel agreed that current and future one-time bill credits be refunded within 180 days.

On November 27, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 13, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On December 12, 2024, Xcel filed responses to staff's first data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-12.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to approve Xcel's request for the continuation of the one-time bill credit mechanism and that the current and future one-time bill credits of the DOE Settlement payments be refunded to ratepayers within 180 days.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel's request for the continuation of the bill credit mechanism consistent with the Commission's Orders in Dockets EL11-023, EL16-001, EL19-002, and EL21-035 is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that Xcel's current and future one-time bill credits of the DOE Settlement payments be refunded to ratepayers within 180 days.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of January 2025.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u><i>Kristie Fiegen</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>22 January 2025</u></p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner