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Xcel Energy Data Request No. 1-2  
Docket No.: EL24-018  
Response To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Requestor: Patrick Steffensen  
Date Received: May 10, 2024

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Question:

Refer to Section 3.3 on Sheet No. 14. Provide examples of when the Company might “read certain meters less frequently than once each billing period”.

Response:

This language in the tariff allows for the limited occasions where the Company cannot gather 100 percent of a customer’s usage each billing period. We are in the process of deploying Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters and a Field Area Network (FAN), that together are expected to reliably provide the Company with the information necessary to bill customers monthly.

There are circumstances that may interfere with the Company’s ability to gather 100 percent of a customer’s usage every month. For example, a meter might malfunction and thus not capture and transmit a portion or a full month of a customer’s usage. Another example that might interfere with our ability to gather 100 percent of a customer’s usage is intermittent interference that disrupts the meter’s ability to transmit a portion or a full month of a customer’s usage over the FAN – such as a building or other obstruction that interferes with the radio frequency transmission.

We believe that we will consistently read and gather customers’ usage for the overwhelming majority of our AMI meters every month. But these are practicable examples of circumstances that can arise that mean we may not be able to “read” the meter during the billing window or some other portion of the billing period; thus, our statement that certain meters may be read less frequently than once every billing period.

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