

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Amy Fischer [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXT] opposition to EL25-024 Excel rate increase

Ms. Fischer – Thank you for contacting the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission regarding Xcel Energy’s proposed rate increase request. We understand and appreciate the challenges that many South Dakotans—especially those on fixed incomes—are facing as the cost of living continues to rise.

Your comments appear to be directed toward Xcel Energy, but we want to provide a response from the commission’s regulatory perspective.

Xcel submitted its rate increase request to the PUC on June 30, 2025. The proposal is currently undergoing a thorough review by commission staff analysts and a staff attorney. They are reviewing Xcel Energy’s financial data, operational needs, and the potential effects on consumers. Staff and expert witnesses are conducting multiple rounds of discovery, requesting and analyzing detailed information from the utility.

Once this comprehensive review is complete, the commissioners will publicly discuss the case, ask additional questions, and deliberate on the evidence. Each commissioner will then vote to approve, deny, or modify the requested rate increase. Commissioners are prohibited from denying any rate increase request that has been filed in accordance with the law without first fully vetting the facts and reasoning for the request. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

The South Dakota Legislature gave the PUC authority to ensure utility companies in South Dakota provide safe and reliable service at fair and reasonable rates. In evaluating rate cases, the commission must balance the public’s need for adequate and efficient service with the utility’s need to recover its costs and earn a fair return. This same rigorous process is applied to every rate case brought before the commission.

To help you better understand how the PUC evaluates rate increase requests, we encourage you to review the [Electric Rate Increase Request Info Guide](#) available on the PUC website. This guide outlines the steps and considerations involved in our review.

We recognize your concerns about rising utility costs and other financial pressures. If you would like to explore potential assistance options or tools that may help with your Xcel Energy bills, we encourage you to contact the commission's Consumer Affairs staff at 605-773-3201.

Thank you again for your message.

Your email and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the online docket.

Gary Hanson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
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