

From: PUC

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 2:59 PM

To: Christine [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] Strong Opposition to Docket No. EL25-024 – Xcel Energy's Proposed 20% Rate Increase

Ms. VandeHoef – Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughtful and articulate message regarding Xcel Energy's proposed rate increase currently under review by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Your letter clearly conveys the personal impact that rising electric rates—alongside other increasing costs—may have on your family. We appreciate your engagement in this important process.

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.

At this stage, the docket is being thoroughly examined by commission staff analysts and a staff attorney. They are reviewing Xcel Energy's financial data, operational needs, and the potential effects on consumers. The process includes multiple rounds of discovery, during which staff and expert witnesses request detailed information from the utility. All responses are carefully analyzed.

Once this in-depth 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. This decision will be made during a public commission meeting, which will be properly noticed and open to all.

It is important to note that the commission is legally required to base its decision on a thorough review of the facts and to ensure that any approved rates are just and reasonable for both ratepayers and the utility. State law mandates that utilities be allowed sufficient revenue to provide safe, reliable, and efficient service. This same rigorous process is applied to every rate case brought before the commission.

Please know that no decision has been made at this time. The commission continues to gather evidence and consider all perspectives before reaching a conclusion. We encourage you and others to remain engaged throughout the process.

Thank you again for your heartfelt message. Your participation adds a valuable local voice to the regulatory process.

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

Gary Hanson, Chairman
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
PUC.sd.gov