

From: PUC

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 10:48 AM

To: Christine [REDACTED]

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

Ms. VandeHoef - Thank you for your follow-up message regarding Xcel Energy's proposed rate increase, docket [EL25-024](#). We appreciate your continued engagement and the thoughtful, well-articulated concerns you have shared.

You highlighted the importance of balancing technical and financial analysis with the experiences of South Dakotans. The commission is fully aware that rate increases—particularly of the magnitude proposed—can place a significant burden on households already navigating inflation, rising housing costs, and limited income growth. Your perspective underscores the impact of these decisions, and we take that responsibility seriously.

As you noted, utility customers do not have the option to choose among providers, which makes the commission's role in ensuring fair and reasonable rates all the more critical. Our review process is designed to be rigorous, transparent, and grounded in both legal standards and public interest. While the law requires us to ensure utilities have the revenue necessary to provide safe and reliable service, it also obligates us to protect consumers from unjust or unreasonable rates.

Regarding your question about consumer impact studies or hardship analyses: while the commission's formal process is primarily evidence-based and focused on financial and operational data, we do consider public comments such as yours. These comments help inform our understanding of how proposed changes affect real people. The commissioners and commission staff read through each of these public comments during the course of their review of dockets.

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 thoughtful message and for your commitment to civic engagement.

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