



Gary Hanson, Chairman  
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairman  
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner



## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

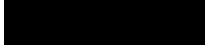
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July 29, 2025

Duane A. Poppens



Harrisburg, SD 57032

Dear Mr. Poppens:

Thank you for your communication regarding your concerns about Xcel Energy's requested electric rate increase, docket EL25-024 - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates, filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on June 30, 2025.

The docket is currently being reviewed by commission analysts and a commission attorney. Many rounds of discovery will be asked by this staff team and their expert witnesses, and the answers provided by Xcel will be analyzed. Once this in-depth review process is completed, commissioners will publicly ask further questions and discuss the details of the case and finally, each commissioner will vote on whether to approve the increase, deny the increase or reduce the increase requested based on the evidence presented. State law guides this entire rate review process.

The commission is obligated by law to review all documents and justification provided by a utility for such a docket to ensure the rates charged are just and reasonable to all parties, ratepayers and the utility. The commission must provide the utility with sufficient revenues it needs to furnish adequate, efficient, and reasonable service. The same review process is done for every rate case filed with the commission.

The enclosed Electric Rate Increase Request Information Guide helps explain the commission's processing of a rate case such as this.

I appreciate that you recognize the utility's costs have increased. Some of the costs that Xcel identified as primary drivers of this rate case are investments in their distribution system, generation facilities and transmission system; replacing aging technology and fleet assets; investment in service centers; and other inflationary pressures.

I understand your concern about increased rates, along with other increased costs you are managing. I encourage you to reach out to the commission's Consumer Affairs staff to see if there are additional tools that may be helpful to you with your Xcel Energy bills. You may talk with a PUC staff member by calling 605-773-3201.

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

Sincerely,

Gary Hanson, Chairman