

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:26 AM  
**To:** 'David Steele'  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Xcel energy rate increase request

Thank you for your communication explaining your challenges with Xcel Energy and your concerns regarding Xcel's requested electric utility rate increase, docket [EL25-024](#), 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, which are specific questions about the documents Xcel filed with its application, will be asked by this staff team and their expert witnesses, and the answers provided by Xcel will be analyzed. This group of staff with experts is a formal party to the docket, separate from the commissioners and staff advisors that provide counsel to commissioners on dockets. Rate cases such as this require six months to one-year before the commission and separate staff team with experts have fully reviewed the case as presented by the utility with analysis provided by the staff team. This analysis includes multiple rounds of discovery asked of utility officials. 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 deny the increase or reduce the increase requested based on the evidence presented. This [Electric Rate Increase Request Information Guide](#) posted online helps explain the commission's processing of a rate case such as this.

Xcel is required by law to provide safe, reliable service to its customers. The utility must ensure the infrastructure and plants it relies upon to generate capacity are sufficient to meet customer demand, while also meeting state and federal legal requirements. 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.

Given your interest in Xcel's rate case, you are encouraged to read through some of the documents filed in this docket to better understand the issues of the case, such as those topics referenced as drivers of the request.

The information you shared about the outages you have experienced has been shared with the PUC's consumer affairs staff.

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*