

**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2026 12:53 PM  
**To:** Steele, David [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Highly Disappointed

Mr. Steele:

By reviewing the comments posted in [EL25-024](#) - In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates, I see that you also wrote to PUC Chairman Chris Nelson and he responded by explaining that the rate case was evaluated according to the legal framework that governs how utilities recover necessary costs and have the opportunity to earn a fair return. A proper review is required under the law and bypassing that process would likely result in a court-ordered correction, adding unnecessary costs for customers. Staff and independent experts conducted an extensive analysis to determine which expenses were appropriate for recovery and excluded those that were not. The resulting rate adjustment reflects broader economic pressures, including inflation and increased operating costs. While any increase is difficult for customers, the decision follows established law and aims to balance customer impact with the financial requirements of maintaining reliable utility service.

Thank you for your continued engagement in this important process.

Your comments and this response will be posted in the “Comments and Responses” section of the docket.

*Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson  
Public Utilities Commission  
Puc.sd.gov*