

From: PUC

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 3:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXT] Docket EL25-024

Ms. Myers:

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding Xcel Energy's proposed rate increase. You'll find the full docket, which was opened on June 30, 2025, on the PUC website: [EL25-024](#) - *In the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy for Authority to Increase its Electric Rates*. Your comments reflect the very real challenges many South Dakotans are facing, and your input is an important part of the public process.

We understand that affordability is a top concern for customers, especially given recent economic pressures. The Public Utilities Commission takes these matters seriously and is committed to a thorough and transparent review of the proposal. As part of this process, Xcel Energy is required to provide detailed justification for the increase.

Commission staff analysts and legal counsel are currently conducting a comprehensive review of the company's financial data, operational needs, and the potential impact on customers. This includes multiple rounds of discovery, where staff and expert witnesses request and analyze detailed information from the utility.

Once this comprehensive review is complete, the Commission will publicly discuss the case, ask further questions, and deliberate based on the evidence presented. Each commissioner will then vote to approve, deny, or modify the requested rate increase. It's important to note that the Commission is legally obligated to base its decision on the facts and applicable law and cannot deny a rate increase request without fully vetting the record. We are required to arrive at a reasonable and legally enforceable decision.

You commented about the availability of rebates and energy efficiency programs. Currently, Xcel Energy customers in South Dakota and Minnesota have access to energy efficiency programs, though the types and amounts differ between the states. Keep in mind these programs are funded through cost recovery mechanisms, such as demand-side management adjustments or base rates, which means all customers contribute to their availability, even if they do not directly participate. The South Dakota PUC evaluates all programs recovered from customers to ensure such programs are cost-effective.

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.

Your comments and this response will be posted in the “Comments and Responses” section of the docket. We appreciate your engagement and encourage you to follow the docket as it progresses.

Gary Hanson, Chairman

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

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