

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF INVESTOR-OWNED</b>	)	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>UTILITIES' JOINT REQUEST FOR DEFERRED</b>	)	<b>REQUEST TO WITHDRAW</b>
<b>TREATMENT OF THE FINANCIAL EFFECTS</b>	)	<b>AND CEASE QUARTERLY</b>
<b>OF COVID-19 AND THE CREATION OF</b>	)	<b>REPORTING; ORDER</b>
<b>REGULATORY ASSETS</b>	)	<b>CLOSING DOCKET</b>
	)	
	)	
	)	<b>GE20-002</b>

On May 1, 2020, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Request for Deferred Treatment of the Financial Effects of COVID-19 and the Creation of Regulatory Assets from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel), MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail), and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, a Division of MDU Resources Group (Montana-Dakota) (collectively, Petitioners).

On May 7, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 15, 2020, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. All investor-owned utilities in South Dakota, with the exception of Black Hills Energy, were original parties to this docket. No petitions to intervene were filed. One comment was filed on June 15, 2020.

Petitioners requested approval for deferred accounting treatment to allow for the recognition of the costs associated with the response to COVID-19 as a regulatory asset beginning from the date the emergency was declared, March 13, 2020. On August 19, 2020, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Request for Deferred Accounting Treatment of the Financial Effects of COVID-19 and Creation of Regulatory Assets. As part of this order, the Petitioners were required to provide quarterly reporting of the known and estimated increases and decreases to costs and revenues that the Petitioners plan to include or have included in their regulatory assets as well as additional detailed information regarding bad debt. On August 27, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Granting Requests to Withdraw and Cease Quarterly Reporting for MidAmerican, Montana-Dakota, and NorthWestern. On June 9, 2022, the Commission issued an Order Granting Request to Withdraw and Cease Quarterly Reporting for Otter Tail.

On July 28, 2022, the Commission received a letter from Xcel requesting to formally withdraw its request for deferred accounting of COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses, excepting bad debt, for electric service as currently tracked and reported along with cost offsets, disconnection activity and bill payment arrearages resulting from the effects of COVID-19 in this docket. Xcel states its application to increase rates for electric service in docket EL22-017 includes a proposed adjustment regarding amortization of the excess bad debt incurred, which is currently pending with the Commission for consideration. Accordingly, Xcel requests to withdraw from the docket and discontinue its submission of quarterly reports.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-7 and ARSD 20:10:13.48.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 18, 2022, the Commission considered this matter. Finding good cause to do so, the Commission unanimously voted to allow Xcel to withdraw from the docket and cease quarterly reporting and to close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel is granted withdrawal from this docket. It is further

ORDERED, that no further quarterly reports are required to be filed in this docket by Xcel. It is further

ORDERED, that the docket shall be closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Adam de Huelk</u>
Date: <u>8/19/22</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner