

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)	OF PROCEDURAL
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO)	SCHEDULE AND HEARING
INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)	EL09-009

On June 30, 2009, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its service territory by approximately \$18.6 million annually or approximately 12.7% based on Xcel's 2008 test year. Of this increase in base rates, approximately \$2.9 million is currently being collected through Xcel's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider and Environmental Cost Recovery Rider, which NSP is proposing to subsequently recover in base rates. Consequently, the annual increase in overall retail rates is approximately \$15.7 million or approximately 10.65%. The company states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see a net increase of 12.4 percent, or \$8.55 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 81,000 customers in Xcel's service territory.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 14, 2009, the Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the deputy executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further established an intervention deadline of September 15, 2009. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel for 90 days beyond July 30, 2009.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-21.

The procedural schedule shall be as follows:

DATE	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
November 20, 2009	Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due
December 4, 2009	Xcel Testimony Due
December 9-11, 2009	Hearing

A hearing shall be held commencing at 9:00 a.m., with marking of exhibits to begin at 8:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, and continuing at 9:00 a.m., on December 10 and 11, 2009, in Room 413, State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing is open to the public. All persons testifying shall be subject to cross-examination.

The issue at the hearing is whether the Commission shall grant Xcel's request to implement revised electric rate schedules designed to produce additional revenues of \$18.6 million.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission shall determine whether it shall grant Xcel's request to implement revised rate schedules. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings. It is further

ORDERED, that the hearing shall commence at 9:00 a.m., with marking of exhibits to begin at 8:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, and continuing at 9:00 a.m., on December 10 and 11, 2009, in Room 413, State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of September, 2009.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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.
By: <u>Albino Kolbe</u>
Date: <u>10/1/09</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner