

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

**THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO
INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES**

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**ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF
CANCELLATION AND
CONTINUANCE OF HEARING
AND AMENDED PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE**

EL11-019

On June 30, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$14.6 million annually or approximately 9.28% based on Xcel's 2010 test year. In addition, Xcel is proposing to recover approximately \$1 million of ongoing investments in its Monticello nuclear generating plant through a Nuclear Cost Recovery Rider to go into effect with the final rates. Xcel states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of 9.48%, or \$6.93 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 84,000 customers in Xcel's South Dakota service territory. On July 7, 2011, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 9, 2011, to interested individuals and entities. On July 20, 2011, the Commission issued an Order of Assessment of Filing Fee and Suspension of Imposition of Tariff assessing Xcel a filing fee not to exceed the statutory limit, suspending the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel for 180 days beyond June 30, 2011, and establishing an intervention deadline of September 9, 2011. No persons requested intervention. On November 4, 2011, Xcel filed its Notice of Intent to Implement Interim Rates. On February 28, 2012, the Commission issued an Order for and Notice of Procedural Schedule and Notice of Hearing. On March 13, 2012, April 2, 2012, and April 9, 2012, the parties filed stipulations for extension of the procedural schedule deadline for filing and service of Staff's testimony to facilitate on-going settlement discussions. On April 19, 2012, Xcel filed a letter advising the Commission that settlement had been reached on all issues except two and that the parties had stipulated to an amended procedural schedule.

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, and 49-34A-21.

The hearing originally scheduled for May 1-3, 2012, is cancelled and continued to June 13-14, 2012. The procedural schedule shall be as follows:

Xcel's Initial Brief filed and served	May 23, 2012
Staff's Response Brief filed and served	May 30, 2012
Xcel's Reply Brief filed and served	June 6
Hearing	June 13-14, 2012

Since the stipulation has not yet been finalized by the parties and filed with the Commission, a formal notice of hearing will be issued by the Commission following Commission action on the

stipulation once filed in order to enable the accurate statement of issues remaining for decision to be included in the notice of hearing. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the hearing originally scheduled for May 1-3, 2012, is hereby cancelled and is continued to June 13-14, 2012. It is further

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings except as modified by order of the Commission or stipulation of the parties.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of April, 2012.

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>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>April 25, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]
GARY HANSON, Commissioner