

**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 )  
)**

**RULINGS ON XCEL'S  
PROPOSED FINDINGS OF  
FACT**

**EL11-019**

On June 30, 2011, Northern States Power Company (NSP) d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for Authority to Increase Electric Rates in South Dakota. On July 2, 2012, the Commission issued its Final Decision and Order; Notice of Entry in the case (Decision). Pursuant to SDCL 1-26-25, the Commission as part of its Decision makes the following rulings on Xcel Energy Proposed Findings of Fact:

Proposed Findings 1 and 2 – Accepted with a minor addition in Proposed Finding 1.

Proposed Findings 3-5 – Accepted in substance through inclusion in the Procedural History and incorporation by reference in Finding 4.

Proposed Findings 6 and 7 – Accepted.

Proposed Findings 8-18 - Accepted in substance through inclusion in the Procedural History and incorporation by reference in Finding 4.

Proposed Finding 19 – Accepted with minor additions in Conclusion of Law 1.

Proposed Findings 20 and 21 – Accepted with minor changes as Findings 8 and 9.

Proposed Findings 22-36 – Not accepted. The Commission's Findings include the substance of many of the statements in these Proposed Findings but diverge from these Proposed Findings in numerous particulars and conclusions.

Proposed Findings 37-40 – Accepted in principle in Finding 22.

Proposed Findings 41-46 – Not accepted.

Proposed Finding 47 – Accepted in substance in Finding 14.

Proposed Finding 48 – Not accepted.

Proposed Findings 49-69 – As Xcel prevailed on the issue of full cost recovery in rates of the Nobles Wind Farm, the preponderance of Xcel's Proposed Findings of Fact 49-69 have been accepted in their general substance and incorporated in Findings of Fact 24 through 43, with additions and modifications to reflect the Commission's understanding of the record and its basis for decision and to add citations to the record.

Conclusion 1 – Accepted as to cost of long term debt. Not accepted as to remainder.

Conclusion 2 – Accepted in substance in Findings 39, 41, and 42.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that these rulings on Xcel Energy Proposed Findings of Fact are hereby adopted for inclusion in the Commission's decision.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of July, 2012.

<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.	
By:	<u>Joy Chung</u>
Date:	<u>7-5-12</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner