

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION</b>	)	<b>PROCEDURAL ORDER;</b>
<b>OF NORTHERN STATES POWER</b>	)	<b>ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF</b>
<b>COMPANY DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR</b>	)	<b>HEARING</b>
<b>AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC</b>	)	
<b>RATES</b>	)	<b>EL12-046</b>

On June 29, 2012, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Electric Rates in South Dakota (Application) filed 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 \$19.368 million annually or approximately 11.53% based on Xcel's 2011 test year. Xcel states that a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of 12.7%, or \$9.82 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 85,000 customers in Xcel's South Dakota service territory.

On July 5, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of September 7, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. On July 23, 2012, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee and Suspending Operation of Proposed Rates. On September 6, 2012, Shetek Wind Inc. filed a Petition to Intervene. On September 21, 2012, Xcel filed an Answer of Northern States Power Company to Petition to Intervene by Shetek Wind Inc. On September 24, 2012, Shetek filed a Reply of Shetek Wind Inc. to Answer of Northern States Power Company. On October 1, 2012, the Commission issued an Order Denying Intervention to Shetek Wind Inc.

The Commission has jurisdiction over 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 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13.

Following discussions between counsel for Xcel and Commission Staff, the procedural schedule in this matter shall be as follows:

November 15, 2012	Staff testimony filed and served
December 6, 2012	Xcel rebuttal testimony filed and served
December 13-14, 2012	Hearing

A hearing shall be held commencing at 9:00 a.m., with marking of exhibits to begin at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 13, 2012, and continuing at 9:00 a.m., on December 14, 2012, except as the Commission shall otherwise order at hearing, in Room 413, State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, 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 annual revenues of approximately \$19.368 million.

The hearing will 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 may be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If a party or its representative fails 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 will determine whether to grant Xcel's request to implement revised electric rate schedules designed to produce additional annual revenues of approximately \$19.368 million. 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 except as modified by order of the Commission or stipulation of the parties. It is further

ORDERED, that the hearing shall commence and continue at the times and place specified above except as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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: Joy Brung

Date: 10.29.12

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner