

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

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION )  
STAFF'S REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE )  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY )  
DBA XCEL ENERGY'S PROPOSED FUEL )  
CLAUSE RIDER )  
)  
)**

**ORDER AUTHORIZING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO  
ENTER INTO A CONSULTING  
CONTRACT**

**EL16-037**

On November 30, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) regarding its monthly fuel clause rider (FCR), to be effective December 1, 2016. On November 30, 2016, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a Petition to Suspend Proposed Fuel Clause Rider. Staff requested a suspension for 180 days to allow adequate time for it to evaluate whether certain Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs) requested for cost recovery through the FCR are reasonable and cost effective. The costs associated with specific PPAs were not identified in the FCR filing therefore Staff requested suspension to review not only the specific PPAs that were identified, but also additional resources that may be identified through Staff's investigation.

On December 1, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 16, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. Xcel is a party to the docket. On December 12, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Suspending Fuel Clause Rider for 180 Days. On May 8, 2017, Staff filed a Motion and Brief for Order to Show Cause Why Certain Costs Included in Proposed Fuel Clause Rider Should Not Be Disallowed (Motion for Order to Show Cause) and Affidavit of Jon Thurber.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including SDCL 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-25, and 49-34A-26.

On May 9, 2017, at the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting, Staff requested that the Commission give the executive director authority to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$50,000 to assist Staff in the investigation of this docket. The Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to give the executive director authority to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$50,000. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$50,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>5-11-17</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner