

**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 ESTABLISHING
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

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). In its Motion, Staff requested the Commission issue an Order to Show Cause requiring Xcel to come forward and show cause as to why certain expenses should not be disallowed. Included in Staff's Motion was a request for a procedural schedule.

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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 23, 2017, the Commission considered setting a procedural schedule. The Commission unanimously voted to establish a procedural schedule. The parties have agreed to the following procedural schedule:

Answers to discovery	Ten business days
Xcel's prefiled testimony	June 30, 2017
Staff' prefiled testimony	July 28, 2017
Xcel's rebuttal testimony	August 8, 2017
Witness Lists	One week prior to hearing
Final service of discovery	Two weeks prior to hearing
Responses to final discovery	Five business days prior to hearing
Pre-Hearing Motions	August 11, 2017
Exhibit Lists	One week prior to hearing
Evidentiary Hearing	Beginning August 29, 2017

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the above procedural schedule is established for this proceeding.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of May, 2017.

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 or by mail.

By: Karen E. Cremer

Date: May 25, 2017

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Piegen

KRISTIE PIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner