

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF)
A PROXY PRICING PROPOSAL TO)
ADJUST CERTAIN FUEL CLAUSE RIDER)
POWER PURCHASE COSTS)**

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

EL18-004

On January 29, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval of a proxy pricing proposal to adjust certain fuel clause rider power purchase costs. Xcel proposes a proxy pricing solution to address the costs associated with a limited number of existing wind and solar projects that currently flow through the South Dakota fuel clause. Xcel states its recommended proposal provides customers with a reasonable degree of certainty regarding certain costs currently recovered through the fuel clause, reflects a balance between ratepayers and Xcel, and maintains the basic tenets of the integrated system and associated benefits. Xcel requests approval of the proxy pricing proposal beginning retroactively on December 1, 2016, which, consistent with the Settlement Stipulation in Docket EL16-037, is the date of the initial suspension of Xcel's fuel clause adjustment.

On February 1, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 16, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

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 1, 2018, at the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting, Staff requested that the Commission give the executive director authority to enter into a consulting contract 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. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into a consulting contract.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of May 2018.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</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>Adam D. Hreck</u></p> <p>Date: <u>5/3/18</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
--

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner