Colorado 2015–2016 Electric Rate Case

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, DELIVERING VALUE TODAY

At Xcel Energy, it’s our job to provide customers with reliable, increasingly clean energy at an affordable price. And to deliver on that promise, Colorado’s electric infrastructure must be constantly maintained and updated to deliver the high-quality service you expect.

We recently submitted an electric rate case to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). It’s a regulatory proceeding that determines how much it costs Xcel Energy to serve customers and how much the utility needs to recover these costs.

KEEPING IT AFFORDABLE

In this rate case, we are requesting to increase our charge for electricity by 5.3 percent for residential customers and 5.1 percent for commercial customers in 2015. If you are a “typical” residential electricity customer (using 632 kilowatt-hours a month) this amounts to an additional $3.96 per month. A typical commercial customer (using 1,123 kilowatt-hours a month) could expect an additional $6.35 per month.

MODERNIZING & INVESTING IN THE SYSTEM

Xcel Energy continues to plan ahead with strategic projects to modernize our fleet of generating plants. We have completed a number of facility upgrades and technology improvements to reduce emissions and strengthen overall performance of our system.

This includes a portfolio of projects that will significantly reduce emissions by retiring aging coal plants, building a new natural gas combined-cycle plant and retrofitting other units with state of the art emissions controls.

CLEANER AIR, BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Xcel Energy’s environmental strategy is driven by smart investment choices, ones that our customers want and value. Our strategy has worked for customers and the communities we serve because it balances cost and environmental improvement with the need for reliability.

Over the last decade, we have proactively reduced emissions and today are on track to reduce carbon dioxide emissions system wide in Colorado by 35 percent by 2020 (from 2005 levels). Our investments through the Clean Air Clean Jobs Act have helped the state of Colorado meet clean air requirements. This rate case includes a request for approval of a Clean Air Clean Jobs rider, to reflect the remainder on the nearly $1 billion of investments being completed by 2016. If the rider is approved, residential and commercial customers would see an additional 1.4 percent bill increase in 2016.

MORE RESILIENT GRID

Xcel Energy operates the fourth largest and one of the fastest growing transmission systems in the United States. And we have the resources and expertise to complete complex construction projects on time and on budget.

We carefully select capital projects to provide the greatest value in terms of customer demand and growing energy needs. By looking at the big picture, we can invest in a stronger, more resilient energy grid that can reliably serve customers for the next 50 years.
SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON

Customers depend on us for a speedy response when the going gets tough—especially when wildfires, floods and other weather-related events disrupt service and cause extensive damage.

In 2013, when monumental flooding along Colorado’s Front Range washed out roads, isolated entire communities, destroyed home and businesses and even claimed lives, our employees immediately rose to the challenge. Our crews worked around the clock in extremely difficult conditions to get customers back in service in record time. We’re always there: 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year.

MANAGE YOUR BILL

We’re here to help when you need it. Xcel Energy provides a wide variety of energy efficiency programs and rebates to help you manage your energy use while saving time and money.

Visit ResponsibleByNature.com to access free tools and learn more about available programs and rebates, plus energy efficiency and conservation offerings. Residential customers can call our Customer Contact Center at 1-800-895-4999 to learn more about our programs. Businesses customers can work with our team of account managers or contact our Business Solutions Center at 1-800-481-4700.

Find more online at xcelenergy.com/CORateCase

RATE CASE DRIVERS

Key drivers in this rate case include:

- Previously approved power plant and system investments, including modernization and emission reduction projects coming online in 2014–2017.
- Property taxes, which were deferred in our last electric rate case, are also increasing. Xcel Energy is the largest payer of property taxes in the state.
- Depreciation expenses are increasing and impacted by early retirement of nearly one-third of our older coal-fired plants.

TIMELINE

Fall 2014: Public hearings, consideration by CPUC

February 2015: New rates expected to begin