



414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

April 12, 2024

APR 15 2024

—Via U.S. Mail—

RE: NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES – NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE NATURAL GAS RATES  
DOCKET No. G002/GR-23-413

Hello,

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, has enclosed a required Notice to Counties and Municipalities regarding our Application for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates filed in the above noted docket. The enclosed Notice provides information on the upcoming Public Hearings on our Application.

We would appreciate if you could post the Public Hearing information in your public calendar or on your website.

Please contact Pamela Gibbs at (612) 330-2889 or [pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com](mailto:pamela.k.gibbs@xcelenergy.com) or contact me at (612) 337-2268 or [amber.r.hedlund@xcelenergy.com](mailto:amber.r.hedlund@xcelenergy.com) if you have any questions regarding this letter or the enclosed Notice.

Sincerely,

/s/

AMBER R. HEDLUND  
REGULATORY MANAGER

Enclosure



Notice to Counties and Municipalities  
Under Minn. Stat. § 216B.16, Subd. 1

# RATE INCREASE NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR XCEL ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

Xcel Energy has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve an increase to natural gas rates beginning January 2024. The requested increase is approximately 9.6 percent or \$59.03 million. On average, the proposed final rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$6.93 per month.

The MPUC may either approve, deny, or modify the requested changes, including approving a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any customer class or classes of service.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on our rate request in the first quarter of 2025. If final rates are lower than interim (temporary) rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at [www.missingmoney.com](http://www.missingmoney.com). To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

### **Public Hearings**

Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Todnem will hold six in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on our request. Any Xcel Energy customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of Xcel Energy's service, the level of rates, or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney. The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

**Public Hearing Locations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	1:30 p.m.	City of Big Lake Community Room 790 Minnesota Ave. Big Lake, MN 55309
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	1:30 p.m.	Merriam Park Library Rooms A & B 1831 Marshall Ave. St. Paul, MN 55104
Wednesday, May 1, 2024	6:30 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
Thursday, May 2, 2024	6:30 p.m.	The Meeting Point 14537 Dodd Blvd. Rosemount, MN 55068
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	1:30 p.m.	Northtown Library 711 County Hwy 10 NE Blaine, MN 55434
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	1:30 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	6:30 p.m.	Country Inn & Suites 6003 Hudson Rd. Woodbury, MN 55124
Thursday, May 9, 2024	6:30 p.m.	Red Wing Ignite 419 Bush St. Red Wing, MN 55066

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled – call (toll free) **855-731-6208** or **651-201-2213** or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

**Virtual Public Hearings**

Public hearings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.

**May 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. and**

**May 8, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.**

**Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)**

To join the virtual hearing using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: <https://minnesota.webex.com>. In the gray box where it says, “Enter Meeting Information,” type the Event Number below for the public hearing date you are attending:

<b>May 1, 2024 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>May 8, 2024 1:30 p.m.</b>
Event Number: <b>2489 035 7971</b>	Event Number: <b>2486 506 4367</b>
Event Password, if needed: Xcel#	Event Password, if needed: Xcel#

**Directions for Appearing via WebEx.**

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a WebEx application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next, you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click “Join Now” and you will be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called, and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

**To Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)**

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the hearing via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the hearing; however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box below to dial into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing, as set forth below:

May 1, 2024 6:30 p.m.	May 8, 2024 1:30 p.m.
Phone: 1-855-282-6330	Phone: 1-855-282-6330
Access Code: 2489 035 7971	Access Code: 2486 506 4367
Event password: Xcel# (92350 from phones)	Event password: Xcel# (92350 from phones)

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the hearing, **press \*3** on your telephone. You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

**Public Hearing and Process Information**

Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Todnem will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations after the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, interested persons have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff; and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase.

Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed in the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is advantageous to arrive at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Please contact Jason Bonnett at 651-201-2235 or [jason.bonnett@state.mn.us](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet.

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing. A comment card is enclosed if you wish to mail in your comments.

#### **Comment Period**

Comments accepted through **July 19, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**

- Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.
- Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

#### **How to Submit a Written Comment**

Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the Commission's website; (2) electronic mail; (3) U.S. Mail – including filling out and mailing in the enclosed comment card; or (4) facsimile. To learn how to submit a comment in any of these ways, please visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select "Get Involved" from the dropdown menu on the top of the page, then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Public Comment page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference MPUC Docket No. 23-413 in the subject line of your comment.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may fill out the enclosed comment card and send or deliver your comment to:

#### **Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

121 7th Place East, Ste. 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Important:** Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information from comments received.

#### **EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**

Formal evidentiary hearings on Xcel Energy's proposal will be held on **July 10 to 12, 2024**, starting at **9:30 a.m.** each day. The evidentiary hearings will be held at the Public Utilities Commission, 350

Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota. Individuals who cannot attend in person may attend via Microsoft Teams (Teams), a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through Teams may request an electronic invitation by contacting [MPUC](#) staff Jason Bonnett at 651-201-2235 or [jason.bonnett@state.mn.us](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us).

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to allow Xcel Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities Division, and parties who have formally joined the contested case, to present testimony and to cross-examine each other’s witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, you must serve and file a Petition to Intervene, pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.6200, by March 20, 2024.

**TO LEARN MORE**

Xcel Energy’s current and proposed rate schedules are available at:

**Xcel Energy**

414 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis MN 55401

Phone 612-330-5500

Web: [https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates\\_and\\_regulations/filings/minnesota\\_natural\\_gas\\_rate\\_proposal](https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal)

**Minnesota Department of Commerce**

85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-539-1534

Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/search.jsp> Select (23) in the year field, type (413) in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

If you have questions about the MPUC’s review process or need assistance in submitting comments, contact the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Office at:

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay. Please contact the MPUC staff Jason Bonnett at 651-201-2235 or [jason.bonnett@state.mn.us](mailto:jason.bonnett@state.mn.us) as soon as possible if you need an interpreter or accommodation to attend a public hearing.

**Proposed Rate Increases**

The table below shows the effect of both the interim and proposed rate changes on monthly bills for residential, commercial and industrial customers with average natural gas use.

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage in Ccf (or therms)	Average Monthly Bill - Current Rates	Average Monthly Bill - Interim Rates	Average Monthly Bill - Proposed Rates
Residential	73	\$67	\$73	\$74
Sm. Commercial	186	\$157	\$169	\$173
Lg. Commercial	1,311	\$968	\$1,029	\$1,059
Sm. Demand	7,765	\$5,403	\$5,763	\$5,825
Lg. Demand	17,821	\$11,861	\$12,615	\$12,818
Sm. Interruptible	6,639	\$3,620	\$3,858	\$3,932
Med. Interruptible	46,065	\$20,958	\$21,836	\$23,163
Lg. Interruptible	713,546	\$313,983	\$325,968	\$341,268
Lg. Firm Transport**	133,497	\$18,990	\$22,602	\$25,702
Sm. Interruptible Transport**	6,639	\$1,248	\$1,491	\$1,559
Med. Interruptible Transport**	195,706	\$19,406	\$22,940	\$28,774
Lg. Interruptible Transport**	2,098,693	\$71,065	\$85,037	\$93,580

\*\* Transportation classes bill estimates do not include the cost of gas