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NEWS RELEASE

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PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON XCEL ENERGY RATE PROPOSAL

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC), a division of the Department of Regulatory Agencies, will hold a public hearing on Monday, Sept. 8, to receive comment about Xcel Energy's proposal that would shift more of its natural gas distribution costs into its fixed monthly service and facilities charge.

The public hearing will start at 4 p.m. in Hearing Room A at the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, in Denver.

The proposal would provide no additional revenue to Xcel Energy, but would change how costs are spread among the company's residential, commercial and transportation customers. Currently, Xcel Energy recovers its distribution costs for infrastructure, equipment, labor, metering and billing through a monthly service and facilities charge and a volumetric charge applied to the amount of gas used each month.

Under the proposal, the service and facilities charge for residential customers would increase to \$13.88 per month, while the volumetric charge per therm would be reduced. Overall, residential customers would see a reduction in their bills by about one-half of a percent.

For commercial customers, the volumetric charge would increase slightly, and the service and facilities charge would also increase, to \$28.38 per month. As a result, the average commercial customer would see an overall monthly bill increase of about 2.4 percent, based on an average use of 304 therms.

The company also is seeking to implement a new low-income energy assistance pilot program that would provide arrearage forgiveness and reduce the percentage of income that low-income customers spend on their natural gas bills. The pilot program would be funded through a 38-cent charge to all Xcel customers, and would cost about \$14.2 million over a 30-month period.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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