



## NEWS RELEASE

December 22, 2009  
For immediate release

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### **PUC REDUCES XCEL ENERGY'S JAN. 1 ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE BY \$61.4 MILLION**

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today trimmed \$61.4 million off a previously-granted electric rate increase for Xcel Energy because of delays in the startup of the new unit at the Comanche coal plant in Pueblo.

The PUC reduced from \$128.3 million to \$66.9 million an increase that is to take effect on Jan. 1. The increase was based partly on expectations that the third Comanche unit would begin operations by the end of the year. Earlier this month, Xcel reported that the unit was experiencing boiler leaks and likely would not begin operations until at least February.

After a hearing on Tuesday, the PUC voted to remove \$61.4 million in costs associated with the new unit from rates until the plant is operational. Once the plant goes on line, the company can seek to put most of the removed portion of the increase back into rates. A small amount related to property taxes at the unit will not be restored until Jan. 1, 2011.

Based on the revised decision, typical residential customers using 632 kilowatt-hours will see a monthly bill increase of about 3.7 percent, or \$2.55, with small commercial customers, using 1,123 kilowatt-hours, receiving a 3.1 percent increase, or about \$3.66 a month. Without the adjustment for the Comanche delay, residential bills would have gone up by about 6.5 percent, or \$4.43 per month, and small commercial bills by about 5.7 percent, or \$6.72 per month.

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