



## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

### **PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED XCEL ENERGY ELECTRIC RATE HIKE**

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will take public comment on Monday, February 13, on a proposal by Xcel Energy to increase its electric rates by \$141.9 million. The public hearing will start at 4 p.m. in Hearing Room A, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, in Denver.

Xcel Energy's proposal would increase monthly bills for residential customers, using an average of 632 kilowatt-hours (kwh) per month, by \$4.01, or 5.99 percent. Monthly bills for commercial customers, using 1,123 kwh per month, would rise by \$5.30, or 4.83 percent.

More than half of the proposed increase is due to the loss of the Black Hills Electric wholesale contract, which expired at the end of 2011, and increases in property taxes. The company also is seeking to recover recent investments in the electric distribution system, costs associated with efforts to improve the state's air quality, and a \$10 million plan to clear and remove trees killed by the mountain pine beetle from Xcel's transmission and distribution lines.

Customers who wish to submit written comments about the rate proposal may send them to the PUC at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202. Comments should be addressed to Docket No. 11AL-947E. Customers may also submit email comments to [pucconsumer.complaints@dora.state.co.us](mailto:pucconsumer.complaints@dora.state.co.us); or use the on-line comment form at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/consumer/ConsumerComment.htm>.

*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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