



NEWS RELEASE

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PUC TO TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT ON XCEL ELECTRIC RATE REQUEST

DENVER – The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will receive public comment on Monday, April 20, on a proposal by Xcel Energy to increase electric base rates by \$174.7 million. The public hearing will be from 4-6 p.m. in Hearing Room A at the PUC, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, in Denver.

Xcel Energy has requested to raise monthly bills for residential customers by about 8.4 percent, or \$5.13 a month, based on average usage of 625 kilowatt-hours. Under the proposal, small commercial customers would see an increase of about 8 percent, or \$7.84 a month, based on usage of 1,025 kilowatt-hours.

In its proposal, the company says it has made significant investments in its generation, transmission and distribution systems since its last electric rate case in 2006. Included in the request are expenses associated with construction of a third generating unit at the Comanche coal plant in Pueblo and additional pollution control equipment for the two existing units; costs for two new natural gas units at the Fort St. Vrain generating station in Platteville; investments in distribution systems; and increased operation and maintenance expenses.

Other parties, including PUC staff and the Office of Consumer Counsel, both divisions of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), will participate in two weeks of formal evidentiary hearings on the request beginning April 20.

Depending on the number of people who sign up to speak at the public hearing, each oral statement may be limited to a certain number of minutes.

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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