

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair

Ken Nickolai

Commissioner

Marshall Johnson

Commissioner

Phyllis Reha

Commissioner

Thomas Pugh

Commissioner

Eileen Jund-Johnson
Regulatory Administrator
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

SERVICE DATE: JANUARY 27, 2005

DOCKET NO. E,G-002/M-04-768

In the Matter of a Request by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy for a Permanent Variance to Minn. Rules and Tariff Changes to Facilitate Implementation of New Customer Billing and Information System

The above entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

Granted Xcel a one-year variance to Minnesota Rule 7820.3500(A), as it pertains to the Company's 850 natural gas customers read through pulse meters, from the date of the Order in the instant petition;

The Company is required to report to the Commission any complaints made by affected customers during the variance period regarding the lack of meter reads on their bills;

Xcel may remove the standard "Group Bill Service Contract" from its electric and natural gas tariffs;

Xcel may make the requested changes to the wording of the Synchronized Bill Service tariff

language in its electric and natural gas tariffs; and

The Company is required to add language, as proposed by the Department, to the end of the first paragraph of provision 3.11 in section 6, sheet 16 of Xcel's Minnesota electric tariff and provision 3.10 in section 6, sheet 12 of Xcel's Minnesota natural gas tariff to ensure that customers are able to opt-out of this service or to make changes to how the account is set up.

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce which are attached and hereby incorporated in the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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