

From: Nelson, Chris

Sent: Wednesday, December 26, 2012 8:32 AM

To: 'rblechinger'

Cc: Van Gerpen, Patty

Subject: RE: Again I ask you dont allow Exel's increase

Richard,

Xcel has the right by state law for an interim increase on the first of the year. The law doesn't allow the PUC to stop that interim increase while we are considering their request for a permanent increase. The important point to understand is that any amount overcharged during this interim period will be refunded to customers with interest when we make a ruling on their request for a permanent increase.

I appreciate receiving your thoughts regarding Xcel's request for a permanent increase. Your comments will become part of the public record of this case so that they may be considered by our staff and all three commissioners. Thanks for your input.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson

Public Utilities Commissioner

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Pierre SD 57501

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Please do not allow Exel to increase their rates by 11% at the first of this year. It is not enough that the three of you allowed them a 5.12 percent (per PUC new at their own site <http://puc.sd.gov/News/2012/default.aspx>) on 6/26/2012. Yes they wanted 9.28% in June and you reduced it, thank God, or they would have attempted to raise the rate over 20% in less than 6 months. This current increase set for the first of the year of over 11% should not be allowed at all or even a reduced compromise rate. I know very few in this State who have even received a 5.12% increase to their cost of living income let alone 17% hike in less than six months. Please remember who it is that you represent. Let us hope it is not Exel.

Merry Christmas and We Hope for a Happy New Year?

Richard Blechinger

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