

Mrs. Donald Storbakken  
1292 8th Ave. NE  
Bismarck, ND 58278-9228



Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building  
Bismarck, N.D. 58501

Are we now looking at paying another CEO another ridiculous wage or bonus?

What about all the retirees living on their Social Security each month.

Arlene Storbakken  
1292 8th Ave NE  
Thompson, ND 58228

I believe this was late 2005.

www.GrandForksHerald.com

5C

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### MINNEAPOLIS

#### Outgoing Xcel CEO to get \$4 million

Xcel Energy Inc. will give outgoing chairman and chief executive Wayne Brunetti a **one-time \$4 million payment**, according to a regulatory filing.

Brunetti announced Friday that he is stepping down as chief executive, and said he will retire as chairman on Dec. 31. His new compensation package includes **\$4,050,000, plus health-care coverage and financial planning services**, according to a filing Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

His former employment contract as chief executive and chairman paid him **\$1,065,000 annually, a target bonus of \$1,065,000, and other incentives.**

Brunetti will be succeeded as CEO by Richard Kelly, who is currently Xcel's president and chief operating officer. Kelly's pay will increase to **\$920,000 from \$700,000, and he will be eligible for a larger bonus.**

#### BISMARCK Xcel asks PSC for gas rate hike

Xcel Energy Co. is asking the state Public Service Commission for permission to increase its natural gas distribution rates.

The Minnesota-based utility, which has about 44,000 gas customers in eastern North Dakota, said the rate hike would increase annual revenues about 3 percent, or \$2.8 million, to cover rising costs.

It would cost a typical residential customer \$3.51 per month, Xcel said. The impact on monthly bills for commercial and industrial users would depend on the type of service and amount of gas used.

The proposed rate increase affects charges only for the delivery of natural gas, which is about 20 percent of an average bill.

Xcel said it has not filed for a natural gas rate increase since November 2004, and that it also is proposing new natural gas conservation programs to help customers lower their bills.

■ On the Net

www.xcelenergy.com

## REGIONAL

#### Xcel Energy seeks 2.4 percent increase in natural gas rates

MINNEAPOLIS — Xcel Energy said it asked the state Public Utilities Commission on Thursday to authorize an increase in its natural gas distribution rates.

The 2.4 percent hike would raise an annual \$18.5 million while increasing the typical residential customer's monthly bill by \$4, the company said.

Xcel last filed for a natural gas rate increase in September 2004.

"This rate request addresses Xcel Energy's need to recover costs associated with system growth, providing safe and reliable natural gas service for approximately 420,000 customers, and maintaining the company's financial stability," said Dave Sparby, the company's vice president of government and regulatory affairs.

As part of its request, Xcel proposes interim rate hikes of 2 percent effective Jan. 8.

The rates would remain in effect until the PUC makes a final determination on the requested increase, with final natural gas rates put into place in late 2007.

#### Minnesotan replaces fallen religious leader

EDEN PRAIRIE — The Minnesota pastor who will serve as interim president of the National Association of Evangelicals is known as a calm man and a stable leader.

And the Rev. Leith Ander-

# N.D. regulators: Xcel Energy may collect extra money from customers

## Associated Press

BISMARCK — Xcel Energy may collect an extra 98 cents from each of its North Dakota residential electric customers to make up an earnings deficit, the state Public Service Commission decided.

At a meeting Friday, the commission endorsed allowing the Minneapolis utility to bill its North Dakota ratepayers for an additional \$176,293 over four months, beginning in September.

To raise the cash, Xcel will use a "fuel cost adjustment" that already appears on

customers' bills. The adjustment is normally used to account for differences in the cost of fuel that is used to generate power.

For the average residential customer, the charge will mean a 21-cent increase on each bill from September through December.

Xcel has about 85,000 North Dakota electric customers, most of whom live in Fargo, West Fargo, Minot and Grand Forks.

Commissioner Susan Wefald said the charge is the last financial remnant of a "performance-based ratemaking" plan Xcel Energy used for five years to set its North

Dakota electric rates. The plan ended Dec. 31, 2005.

Under the plan, Xcel could raise its rates if its earnings were less than its revenue targets. Xcel's ability to increase rates also depended on incentives that were linked to employee safety and service reliability, and comparisons of its electric power prices to what other regional utilities charged.

The sum Xcel will be collecting in the next four months is to make up for utility revenue deficits during 2003 and 2004, Wefald said Friday.

## **LATE PAYMENT CHARGE**

If Xcel Energy does not receive full payment for natural gas service on or before the due date, we will assess a late payment charge of 1 percent on the unpaid balance. Any unpaid balances carried over from month to month also will receive the charge.

## **RETURNED CHECK CHARGE**

Xcel Energy charges \$15 for any check or draft returned by a financial institution.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Other terms and conditions may apply to natural gas service. Complete rate schedules, rules and regulations are available by calling the Xcel Energy customer center at 1-800-895-4999.

## **HOW TO REACH US**

### **24-Hour**

Gas Emergency/Gas Odor 1-800-895-2999

Electric Emergency/Power Outage 1-800-895-1999

### **Residential/Home Office**

24-Hour Customer Service

and Billing 1-800-895-4999

TDD/TTY Support 1-800-895-4949

### **Other**

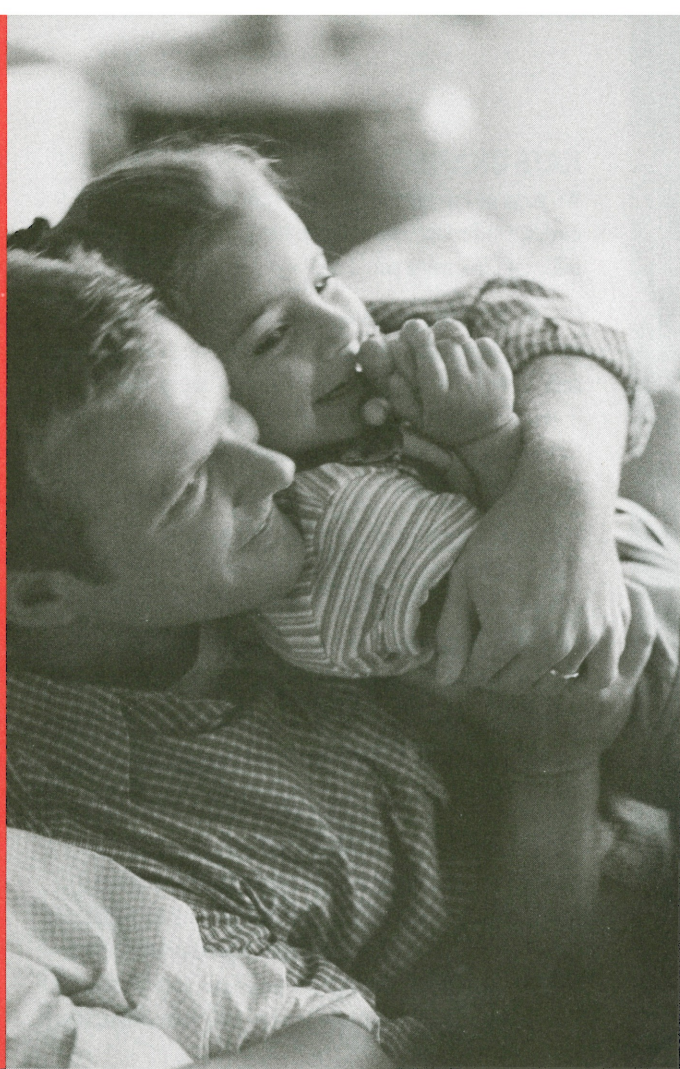
Xcel Energy, Employees  
and Departments 1-800-328-8226

Call Before You Dig/  
North Dakota One Call 1-800-795-0555



PO Box 8 - HSC  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008  
1-800-895-4999  
xcelenergy.com  
Printed with soy-based ink

©2005 Xcel Energy Inc.  
Xcel Energy is a trademark of Xcel Energy Inc.  
Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy  
05-06-409 06/05 1544



## **XCEL ENERGY NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS PRICES**

(EFFECTIVE July 1, 2005)



## RATE CHANGE

We're your energy partner and want to help you understand more about the natural gas services we offer and the rates you'll see on your energy bill.

On July 1, 2005, we implemented a 1.1% overall increase in natural gas rates. The increase, only the second in 20 years, is needed to cover the increasing costs of delivering natural gas, including metering, billing, maintaining and upgrading the local distribution system.

Also, a new natural gas Delivery Services charge replaces both the Basic Service and Distribution charges on your bill. This fixed monthly charge simplifies your bill, reduces monthly fluctuations and more accurately reflects the costs of delivering gas to you.

If you have additional questions, please call us at 1-800-895-4999.

## NATURAL GAS CHARGES

The amount of natural gas you use is shown on your bill in *therms*, which are measured units of 100 cubic feet (Ccf) of natural gas adjusted for pressure and heat content. The items relating to natural gas service are listed below and appear on your bill under *Gas Charges*:

Delivery Services Charge	\$15.69
Cost of Gas Charge	varies monthly
Pressure Correction Adjustment	
Heat Content Adjustment	350
City Fees	1.25
Sales Tax	438.

## DELIVERY SERVICES CHARGE

The Delivery Services Charge covers costs related to delivering natural gas to your home. Those costs are not dependent on how much natural gas you consume and include metering, billing and maintenance of equipment and your account. Your monthly bill will always include this fixed Delivery Services Charge even if energy use for the month is zero.

## COST OF GAS (COG) CHARGE

The COG Charge reflects the wholesale cost of natural gas purchased by Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy does not mark up these costs, but instead passes them to consumers on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Whenever Xcel Energy's natural gas suppliers change their prices either up or down, your COG charge reflects that change. Variations in the price of supplemental propane and liquefied natural gas also impact your COG charge.

## PRESSURE CORRECTION ADJUSTMENT

The volume of gas you use, in Ccf, may be adjusted for pressure. When deliveries of gas are made at pressures other than base pressure, the volume of gas is changed. Therefore, a multiplier or adjustment is added to accurately determine your gas consumption. This adjustment is the gas Pressure Correction Adjustment.

## HEAT CONTENT ADJUSTMENT

The volume of gas you use, in Ccf, is also adjusted for heat content. This factor is used to adjust for gas with a heat content that may be higher or lower than 1,000 BTUs.

## CITY FEES

Xcel Energy collects fees or additional charges as a requirement of our franchise or other agreement with the following cities: Casselton, Fargo and Grand Forks.

## SALES TAX

The charges for natural gas and city fees are subject to a 2 percent state sales tax and city sales taxes in Buffalo, Casselton, Fargo and West Fargo. Customers who are exempt from state sales tax are also exempt from city and county sales tax.

## SERVICE PROCESSING CHARGE

Xcel Energy will charge \$15 for the initial establishment or reestablishment of any combination of electric or gas service for each customer. If a customer requests a disconnection and then reestablishes service at the same location within a 12-month period, additional fees apply.