

RECEIVED

SEP 07 2010

Dear Public Service Commissioner,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

We, the people of 16th Ave and 7th/8th street north Fargo, are writing you to voice our concern for the electrical safety of our block, lack of concern Xcel Energy has shown us providing safe electrical power, and the lack of responsibility Xcel has shown for the damages their system has caused. On the date of August 27th 2010 from 4:00-5:00pm our block, experienced electrical overvoltage and outage events not only damaging 20+ homes, but also placing us into harm's way.

Though we cannot point to the direct cause of the problem we do know that the event ended up shorting the high power side of a 220v split phase to the neutral line. The event (located on the telephone poles) then burned through the grounding Xcel has in place to protect us from shock hazards, started multiple fires on the wires of the telephone poles (some of which burned through the insulation of phone and cable wires), and finally sent high unregulated power into all the wires feeding our homes. This not only led to multiple appliance/electronics failures but also created the possibility to start many home fires. Xcel is claiming that the event was due to an overloading condition caused by the neighborhood and that the lines could not support the current being drawn. From this conclusion Xcel is claiming no financial responsibility for the event. It is not understood how Xcel can take no financial responsibility when they were the only party capable of knowing the total neighborhood load.

The fact of the matter is that the power lines feeding our homes are well past their service life and should have been updated years ago. The wires have vast barren spots where insulation is no longer present, are sagging very close to one another, and have the high possibility of being weakened (due to high current causing local heating and annealing of the copper transmission wire). If the lines were unable to carry the current loading conditions of the neighborhood, where is Xcel's maintenance plan for aging and outdated lines? Does it take property damage or injury to take place for the proper updates to be implemented?

In our homes the event caused numerous appliances/electronics to fail or be destroyed. An incomplete list includes refrigerators, ranges, stove tops, air conditioners, furnaces, hot tubs, garage door openers, home theater systems, satellite receivers, TV's, VCR's, alarm clocks, gaming consoles, and routers. In some homes the electrical wiring was damaged, in another home the breaker box was damaged, and in a few select homes smoke was reportedly coming from devices. It is estimated that the total damages and loss of property could exceed \$100,000.00 for the neighborhood.

As a neighborhood we urge you to pressure Xcel Energy to update these electrical lines and compensate all affected parties. We hope that events like this can be eliminated since we are not only concerned for our safety but are also concerned for safety of the children that use our alley as a walking path (Fargo North High and Washington Elementary are on the block just to the north, Ben Franklin Middle School and Holy Spirit to the south). Ultimately we are concerned that if the lines are not updated it will only be a matter of time until a similar event occurs.

Regards,
Residents of 16th Ave and 7th/8th Street

4 **PU-10-577** Filed: 9/7/2010 Pages: 4
Letter petition from residents affected by Aug. 27th
power disruption

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X Doug & Jane Loomis
1621 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Doug Loomis 9/2/10

X Ryan Thomas
1606 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Ryan Thomas 9/2/10

X Joy Kipp
1633 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Joy Kipp 9/2/10

X Tom & Rose Berg
1618 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Tom Berg 9/2/10

X Bill & Anna Kiebke
1625 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Bill & Anna Kiebke 9/2/10

X Chris Schmit
1622 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Chris Schmit 9/2/10

X Joel Friesz
715 16th Ave N
Fargo, ND 58102

Joel Friesz 9/2/10

X Jerry & Brenda Grosz
1626 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Jerry & Brenda Grosz 9/2/10

X Paul & Anne Schneider
1613 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Anne Schneider 9/2/10
Paul Schneider 9/2/10

X Jamye & Jessica Olson
1641 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Jamye & Jessica Olson 9/2/10

X Don & Susan Schmidt
1638 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Susan Schmidt 09-02-10

X Roger Halvorson
1630 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Roger Halv 9/2/10

X Nate Elverum/Daire Larson
1649 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Nate Elverum 9-2-10

X Merle & Carole Newton
1602 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Merle Newton 9/2/10

X Philip Nohr
1617 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

PN 9/2/10

X Kent Poirier
1637 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Kent Poirier 9/2/10

X Jeremy & Melissa Sobolik
1634 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

JS 9/2/10

Royce Fenne
1609 8th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Refused to sign. Did not want the story to be publicized.
Is worried that the PSC will make Xcel switch out all the
outdated lines in Fargo and drive his rates up.
Reported single dollars worth of damage.
(Note added via PDF text editor)

X Evangiline Caverly
16 18 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Jim Leonard Caverly 9/2/10 MMX
Evangiline Caverly 9/2/10

X Dave Stenvold
1610 7th St N
Fargo, ND 58102

Dave A Stenvold 9-2-10

Stacy or Stein Rommesmo

THANKS CHRIS
FOR DOING THIS. SORRY
WE DIDN'T MAKE IT TO
THE MEETING. STEIN WAS
IN A GOLF TOURNEY WE
WERE AT THE LAKE. BILL
& ANN KEEP US POSTED!

PLEASE ADD US TO
THE LIST, THANKS AGAIN!

Stacy & Stein Rommesmo
X1629 8th St. North
Fgo - N.D. 58102



- Set up work session
- staff investigation
- packet info in file
- Sent info to
Neighborhood letting the
know we are starting an investigation