

# What Would Make Caps on Interim Rates Even Better? More Transparency and Sunshine on Those Rates

Northern States Power Company  
Electronic Bill Insert

Docket No. G002/GR-25-356  
Draft Notices for Hearings  
Attachment B - Page 1 of 2

**Xcel Energy**

**RATE INCREASE NOTICE**  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR XCEL ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

Xcel Energy asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve an increase in natural gas rates beginning Jan. 1, 2026. The requested increase is approximately \$2.25 or \$4.4 million. On average, the proposed final rate change would increase the monthly bill for a typical residential electric customer by 8.7% to \$7.11.

The MPUC may either approve, deny, or modify the requested changes, including approving a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any customer class or class of service.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on an rate request in the fourth quarter of 2026. If final rates are lower than interim/Temporary rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at [www.unclaimedproperty.com](http://www.unclaimedproperty.com). To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

**Public Hearings**  
Administrative Law Judge Kimberly Middendorf will hold six in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on our request. Any Xcel Energy customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of Xcel Energy's service, the level of rates, or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney. The hearing will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE**

Date	Time	Location
Monday, April 27, 2026	1:30 p.m.	Washington County Heritage Center 18C Century Dr. S. Stillwater, MN 55082
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	1:30 p.m.	Virtual WebEx (see access details below)
Tuesday, April 28, 2026	6:30 p.m.	Wynning Area Library 1000 Wynning Ave. Wynning, MN 55092
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	1:30 p.m.	Great River Regional Library Brewer Room 304 404 W. 3rd Street St. Cloud, MN 56301
Monday, May 4, 2026	6:30 p.m.	Winona State University Krysko Commons Purple Room 247-249 500 Huff St. Winona, MN 55987
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	1:30 p.m.	Ramsey County Library Community Program Room 2185 Hamline Ave. N. Roseville, MN 55113
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	6:30 p.m.	Virtual WebEx (see access details below)
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	6:00 p.m.	Robert Trail Library Robert Trail Learning Room 14395 S. Robert Trail Rosemount, MN 55068

**April 28, 2026 1:30 p.m.**  
Event Number: 2490 636 2315  
Event Password: 932328  
If needed: XCEL28

**May 5, 2026 6:30 p.m.**  
Event Number: 2489 638 6327  
Event Password: 932355  
If needed: XCEL55

**Directions for Appearing via WebEx**

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a WebEx application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next, you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click "Join Now" and you will be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it's your turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

**To Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)**  
If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the hearing via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the hearing; however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box below to dial into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing, as set forth below:

**April 28, 2026 1:30 p.m.**  
Phone: 1-855-282-4330  
Access Code: 2490 636 2315  
Event Password: 932328  
From phones: 932328

**May 5, 2026 6:30 p.m.**  
Phone: 1-855-282-4330  
Access Code: 2489 638 6327  
Event Password: 932355  
From phones: 932355

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the hearing, press \*9 on your telephone. You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it's your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

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**Xcel Energy**

**Public Hearing and Process Information**  
Administrative Law Judge Kimberly Middendorf will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, interested persons have the opportunity to (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff, and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed in the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Please arrive at the beginning of the hearing to ensure you will have time to comment.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comments.

Please contact Christine Pham at 651-263-2349 or [christine.pham@state.mn.us](mailto:christine.pham@state.mn.us) if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing.

**Comment Period**  
Comments will be accepted through May 19, 2026.

- Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.
- Comments received after the comment period close may not be considered for the record.

**How to Submit a Written Comment**  
Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the Commission's website (2) electronic mail (3) U.S. Mail or (4) fax. To learn how to submit a comment in any of these ways, please visit [mnpuc.org/nc](http://mnpuc.org/nc) "Get Involved" from the dropdown menu on the top of the page. Then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Public Comment page where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference MPUC Docket No. 25-356 in the subject line of your comment.

You do not have access to the internet, you may send or deliver your comment to:

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Important:** Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information from comments received.

**EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS**  
Formal evidentiary hearings on Xcel Energy's proposal will be held on May 14 & 15, 2026, starting at 9:30 a.m. each. The evidentiary hearings will be held at the Public Utilities Commission, 500 Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota. Individuals who cannot attend in person may attend via WebEx, a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through WebEx may request an electronic invitation by contacting MPUC staff Christine Pham at 651-263-2349 or [christine.pham@state.mn.us](mailto:christine.pham@state.mn.us).

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to allow Xcel Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce - Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Energy General - Residential Utilities Division, and parties who have formally joined the contested case, to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

**TO LEARN MORE**  
Xcel Energy's current and proposed rate schedules are available at:  
Xcel Energy  
614 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis MN 55402  
Phone: 612.330.5000  
Web: [www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates\\_and\\_regulations/filing](http://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filing)  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
670 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651.539.5254  
Web: <http://filing.web.commerce.state.mn.us>. Under "Dockets" select "Search Documents" insert "25-356" in the Docket field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.  
If you have questions about the MPUC, review process or need assistance in submitting comments, contact the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at:  
**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651.296.9406 or 800.637.3732  
Email: [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunication Relay.  
Please contact the MPUC staff Christine Pham at 651.263.2349 or [christine.pham@state.mn.us](mailto:christine.pham@state.mn.us) as soon as possible if you need an interpreter or accommodation to attend a public hearing.

**PROPOSED RATES**

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage in Ccf or Therms	Average Monthly Bill - Current Rates	Average Monthly Bill - Interim Rates	Average Monthly Bill - Proposed Rates
Residential	71	\$42	\$48	\$49
Small Commercial	189	\$199	\$211	\$221
Large Commercial	1,303	\$1,276	\$1,368	\$1,323
Large Demand	7,824	\$6,618	\$7,209	\$7,405
Large Interruptible	17,276	\$11,015	\$12,909	\$14,108
Small Interruptible	6,745	\$4,633	\$4,898	\$5,061
Med. Interruptible	48,220	\$27,303	\$28,593	\$30,196
Large Interruptible	627,483	\$330,615	\$364,325	\$379,449
Large Firm "Transport"	75,708	\$18,442	\$21,445	\$24,088
Small Interruptible "Transport"	6,745	\$1,729	\$1,998	\$2,097
Med. Interruptible "Transport"	118,174	\$18,722	\$22,724	\$26,900
Large Interruptible "Transport"	2,119,680	\$88,465	\$99,346	\$98,465

\*\* Transportation classes bill estimates do not include the cost of gas

**Xcel Energy**

## Disclose the Millions in Agency Expenses and the Barriers to Low Rates

- 1.1 ..... moves to amend H.F. No. 4236, as follows:
- 1.3 Page 2 after line 29, insert:
- 1.4 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216B.16 is amended to add a new section 20:
- 1.5 Subd. 20. Any notice of proposed rate changes sent to interested persons at the
- 1.6 the direction of the Commission, or on behalf of the Commission, shall include an estimate of
- 1.7 the amounts that will be assessed by the Commission in order to act upon or otherwise resolve
- 1.8 the applicant's request for relief. Disclosure of the estimate shall be printed in the notice in
- 1.9 at least 12 point boldface font. This requirement applies to any notice sent pursuant to
- 1.10 subdivisions 1 or 7b of this section, or sections 216B.23. subd. 3, 216B.492. subd. 2. or
- 1.11 Minn. R. 7810.8655.
- 1.12 **REPORTING**
- 1.13 By December 1, 2026, the public utilities commission shall report to the legislative
- 1.14 committees with jurisdiction over utility regulation, a description of any barriers to establishing
- 1.15 multiyear rate plans with low, inclining rates, under section 216B.16, subdivision 19.



Dear Co-Chairs Acomb & Swedzinski and Members of the House Energy Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 11,000 members of the Minnesota Utility Investors (MUI), we appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective regarding HF 4236 that would cap interim rate increases at 5%. Our members are individuals who have invested in Minnesota's regulated utilities and are customers who rely on these same companies for safe, reliable, and affordable energy. The average age of our membership is 70+ and have invested in these companies for their livelihood in retirement.

Minnesota utilities are currently facing a convergence of challenges: growing electricity demand, aging infrastructure, persistent supply chain constraints, and ongoing inflationary pressures. These factors are driving the need for continued, timely investment to ensure reliability, affordability, and progress toward the state's ambitious sustainability goals.

Under existing law, the interim rate framework strikes a careful balance between customer protection and financial stability for utilities. Rate cases typically take 18 to 24 months to resolve. During this period, interim rates provide essential cash flow that enables utilities to continue making necessary investments. Importantly, customers are fully protected: if interim rates are set too high, they receive refunds with interest. Conversely, if interim rates are set too low, utilities are not able to recover the shortfall. This asymmetry already places meaningful risk on utilities and, by extension, their investors.

The proposed 5% cap on interim rate increases would further constrain this system in ways that could have unintended consequences. Limiting interim rates below cost-recovery levels may weaken utilities' financial positions, reduce their ability to access capital at reasonable costs, and ultimately slow or defer critical infrastructure and clean energy investments. For retail shareholders—many of whom are individual investors, retirees, and Minnesotans investing through retirement accounts—this introduces additional risk and uncertainty.

While the goal of protecting customers from rate volatility is important, the existing interim rate structure already provides strong consumer safeguards. Imposing an arbitrary cap risks undermining the financial mechanisms that support system reliability, grid modernization, and the transition to cleaner energy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to carefully consider the broader impacts of this proposal on utility financial health, investor confidence, and the long-term ability to meet Minnesota's energy needs. Maintaining a stable and predictable regulatory environment is essential to ensuring continued investment in the state's energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Annette P. Henkel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annette Henkel  
President



# MINNESOTA PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Affiliate of the United Association  
Composed of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry  
Of the United States and Canada  
State Federation of Labor – A.F.L.-C.I.O.

Andrew Campeau, President  
353 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Room 106  
St. Paul MN 55102  
(651) 291-5001

Jason Quiggin, Secy.-Treas.  
353 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Room 106  
St. Paul MN 55102  
(651) 291-5001

March 24<sup>th</sup> 2026

Co-Chair Acomb

Co-Chair Swedzinski

And Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association, I write in opposition of H.F. 4236.

Duluth-Detroit Lakes  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #11

Minneapolis-St. Cloud  
Plumbers  
Local #15

Minneapolis-St. Cloud  
Pipefitters  
Local #539

Minneapolis-St. Paul  
Sprinkler Fitters  
Local #417

Minneapolis  
Gas Workers  
Local #340

Moorhead  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #300

Rochester  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #6

St. Paul – Mankato  
Plumbers  
Local #34

St. Paul – Mankato  
Pipefitters  
Local #455

Virginia  
Plumbers and Pipefitters  
Local #589

Road Sprinkler Fitters  
Central Region  
Local #669

Minnesota Pipe Trades Association is an umbrella organization representing nearly 10,000 men and women working in piping related industries throughout Minnesota. Our members perform mechanical construction and repair work, including plumbing, pipefitting, fire protection gas service and distribution. The energy sector is critical for our members who build, maintain, and repair thermal power-plants—including coal, gas and nuclear, along with petroleum and renewable fuel refineries, pipelines and gas distribution networks.

We oppose H.F. 4236 as it will prevent utility providers from implementing periodic, reasonable rate increases. This, in turn, will reduce the amount of assets the utility providers will be able to invest in capital projects, continued maintenance and system upgrades. All sectors of work that employ our members and contractors. We support the process currently practiced that allows for such increases with oversight by the Minnesota PUC. Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Andrew R. Campeau  
President  
Minnesota Pipe Trades Association



March 24, 2026

Dear Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce represents over 6,300 businesses of all sizes and industries in every corner of the state and over 500,000 employees in Minnesota. We advocate for public policies to strengthen Minnesota's business climate and to help grow Minnesota's economy.

The Chamber opposes HF 4236 (Rep. Buck). Placing a cap on interim utility rates will have negative long-term effects on energy pricing and infrastructure development in Minnesota. Utilities must plan and make investments now for projects well into the future. Rate cases occur for a multitude of reasons but often are necessary to improve the energy infrastructure in Minnesota. Artificially suppressing interim rates will only lead to higher rate shock for ratepayers when rate cases are ultimately approved.

This legislation will likely lead to more frequent rate cases with requests for higher rate increases heading into the future. The growing number of mandates placed on utilities increases operational and infrastructure costs, in turn necessitating new rate cases. Each rate case can take between 10 months to two years to work through the process and in the meantime the cost to taxpayers and ratepayers is often in the millions in legal and regulatory fees. Additional rate cases will slow the development of energy infrastructure needed in Minnesota to accommodate the accelerating demand for energy as our economy grows and the demand for electric generation and transmission accelerates.

As you know, utilities are required to refund rate payers the net difference if the approved utility rates are less than the interim rates approved by the PUC. There is no opportunity for utilities to recover that difference if the approved rates are higher than the interim rates. This leaves utilities with few options to handle higher input, workforce, and equipment costs – further delaying system improvements not related to rate cases.

We all want greater energy affordability in Minnesota, and to that end the legislature should explore options for significant mandate relief rather than artificially and temporarily suppressing utility rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Dwight". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dan Dwight  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce



Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation  
2685 145th Street West  
Rosemount, MN 55068  
[www.minnesotaenergyresources.com](http://www.minnesotaenergyresources.com)

March 23, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Acomb & Swedzinski and Members of the House Energy Committee:

On behalf of Minnesota Energy Resources Company (MERC), we appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective regarding HF 4236 that would cap interim rate increases at 5%. MERC serves approximately 254,000 natural gas customers across 179 communities in Minnesota.

MERC carefully reviews all factors before deciding to file a rate case. We strive to provide safe and reliable energy to our customers for heating and cooking. We also recognize the need to balance costs with affordability.

Under existing law, the interim rate framework strikes a careful balance between customer protection and financial stability for our company. Rate cases typically take 18 to 24 months to resolve in Minnesota. During this period, interim rates provide essential cash flow that enables our company to continue making necessary investments. Through this process, customers are fully protected: if interim rates are higher than final rates approved by the Commission, customers receive refunds with interest. For example, in MERC's last rate request, customers received refunds with interest of approximately 8%. Conversely, if interim rates are set too low, there is no mechanism under Minnesota law for utilities to recover the shortfall.

The proposed 5% cap on interim rate increases could have unintended consequences. Limiting interim rates below actual costs of service during that period may weaken utilities' financial positions, reduce their ability to access capital at reasonable costs, and ultimately slow or defer critical infrastructure investments necessary for safety and reliability. It may also necessitate more frequent rate requests with the accompanying costs.

We share the goal of protecting customers from rate volatility, however the existing interim rate structure already provides strong consumer safeguards. Imposing an arbitrary cap risks undermining the financial mechanisms that support system reliability, grid modernization, and infrastructure development.

On behalf of MERC, we oppose HF 4236 and respectfully urge the Committee to carefully consider the broader impacts of this proposal. Maintaining a stable and predictable regulatory environment is essential to ensuring continued investment in the state's energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Stasik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Richard F. Stasik  
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs  
Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation

March 24, 2026

Members of the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**Re:** H.F. 4236 — Public utility interim rate amounts limited

Dear Co-Chair Acomb, Co-Chair Swedzinski, and Members of the House Energy Committee,

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association is submitting this letter on behalf of Dakota Electric Association to express our concern about H.F. 4236, which would cap interim rates at 5% over a utility's current rates.

MREA represents Minnesota's 50 cooperatives that deliver electric service to 1.8 million member-owners across the state. Dakota Electric is one of Minnesota's 44 distribution co-ops and the only one that has elected to have its rates regulated by the PUC.

Dakota Electric is a non-profit, member-owned cooperative utility serving approximately 117,000 members in the southern Twin Cities Metropolitan Area including parts of Dakota, Goodhue, Scott, and Rice counties. As a member-owned, non-profit association Dakota Electric has no private shareholders and no profit motivation. Like all cooperatives, Dakota Electric's sole mission is to provide their members with highly reliable electric service as affordably as possible.

We are concerned that this proposed legislation, while well intentioned, would have significant unintended consequences, leading to more rate cases and higher costs. While prices throughout our economy have been going up significantly every year for the past 5-10 years, Dakota Electric has worked hard to control their costs and minimize both the amount and frequency of any increases.

Rate cases are massive regulatory undertakings that entail substantial costs. For a relatively small, non-profit like Dakota Electric, these regulatory costs can be particularly burdensome to members. Interim rates are critical to Dakota Electric's ability to minimize the frequency of rate cases and the costs associated with them. The correct interim rate level depends on the circumstances. A 5% cap **might** be reasonable for a utility that files rate cases every year but not for a utility that files every 3 or 4 years. Further, the Commission currently has the authority to reduce a utility's proposed interim rates based on exigent circumstances, and all interim rates are fully refundable with interest if higher than the final Commission-approved rates.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to oppose H.F. 4236. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome further discussion with the bill's author and committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrick Moe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Minnesota Rural Electric Association