

XCEL ENERGY INC
Form 8-K
December 13, 2012

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) Dec. 12, 2012

Commission File Number	Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter; State of Incorporation; Address of Principal Executive Offices; and Telephone Number	IRS Employer Identification Number
001-3034	XCEL ENERGY (a Minnesota corporation) 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401 (612) 330-5500	41-0448030
001-3280	PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO (a Colorado corporation) 1800 Larimer Street Suite 1100 Denver, Colorado 80202 (303) 571-7511	84-0296600

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01. Other Events

On Dec. 12, 2012, Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo), a Colorado corporation and a wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc., filed a request with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to increase Colorado retail natural gas rates by \$48.5 million in 2013 with subsequent step increases of \$9.9 million in 2014 and \$12.1 million in 2015. PSCo also requested to increase Colorado retail steam rates by \$1.6 million in 2013 with subsequent step increases of \$0.9 million in 2014 and \$2.3 million in 2015. Both requests are based on a 2013 fully forecast test year, a 10.5 percent return on equity, a rate base of \$1.3 billion for natural gas and \$21 million for steam and an equity ratio of 56 percent. Final rates are expected to be effective in the third quarter of 2013.

The increase in natural gas rates is driven by system investment since the last rate case in 2010 as well as increases in operating and maintenance expenses. PSCo is requesting an extension of its Pipeline System Integrity Adjustment (PSIA) rider mechanism to collect the costs of accelerated pipeline integrity efforts including system renewal projects. PSCo estimates that the PSIA will increase by \$26.8 million in 2014 with a subsequent step increase of \$24.7 million in 2015 in addition to the proposed changes in base rate revenue. In conjunction with the multi-year base rate step increases, PSCo is proposing a stay-out provision and an earnings test through the end of 2015.

The steam rate case deficiency for 2013 is driven in large part by increases in operating and maintenance expenses since the last rate case in 2005. The increase in 2015 is driven by the construction of a new boiler to replace steam capacity currently received from an electric generating station that will be retired. PSCo is also seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the new steam asset and has proposed a regulatory plan to stabilize long term steam rates by combining the steam and natural gas systems for the purpose of setting rates starting in 2016.

Except for the historical statements contained in this 8-K, the matters discussed herein, including the expected impact of rate cases, are forward-looking statements that are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Such forward-looking statements are intended to be identified in this document by the words “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “objective,” “outlook,” “plan,” “project,” “possible,” “potential,” “should” and similar expressions. results may vary materially. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and we do not undertake any obligation to update them to reflect changes that occur after that date. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to: general economic conditions, including inflation rates, monetary fluctuations and their impact on capital expenditures and the ability of Xcel Energy Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, Xcel Energy) to obtain financing on favorable terms; business conditions in the energy industry; including the risk of a slow down in the U.S. economy or delay in growth recovery; trade, fiscal, taxation and environmental policies in areas where Xcel Energy Inc. and PSCo have a financial interest; customer business conditions; actions of credit rating agencies; competitive factors including the extent and timing of the entry of additional competition in the markets served by Xcel Energy Inc. and its subsidiaries; unusual weather; effects of geopolitical events, including war and acts of terrorism; state, federal and foreign legislative and regulatory initiatives that affect cost and investment recovery, have an impact on rates or have an impact on asset operation or ownership or impose environmental compliance conditions; structures that affect the speed and degree to which competition enters the electric and natural gas markets; costs and other effects of legal and administrative proceedings, settlements, investigations and claims; financial or regulatory accounting policies imposed by regulatory bodies; availability of cost of capital; employee work force factors; and the other risk factors listed from time to time by Xcel Energy Inc. and PSCo in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Risk Factors in Item 1A and Exhibit 99.01 of Xcel Energy Inc.’s and PSCo’s Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2011 and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30, and Sept. 30, 2012.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dec. 13, 2012

Xcel Energy Inc.
(a Minnesota corporation)
Public Service Company of Colorado
(a Colorado corporation)

/s/ TERESA S. MADDEN
Teresa S. Madden
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
