

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY)
ABERDEEN HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A)
VARIANCE TO THE SEPARATE METERING)
REQUIREMENT IN ARSD 20:10:26:03(4) FOR)
A 40 UNIT MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING)
STRUCTURE IN ABERDEEN, SOUTH)
DAKOTA)**

**ORDER GRANTING
MASTER METERING
VARIANCE**

EL15-040

On October 1, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Aberdeen Housing Authority requesting a variance from the individual metering requirement contained in ARSD 20:10:26:03(4). Aberdeen Housing Authority plans to build a 40 unit multi-family housing structure designed to provide affordable senior housing to the community of Aberdeen. Under the lease structure on this project, the landlord is going to pay all utilities. Therefore, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:26:05, Aberdeen Housing Authority is requesting a master metering variance for electrical and gas services.

On October 8, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 23, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On October 14, 2015, Commission Staff sent a copy of the individual metering variance request to NorthWestern Energy in accordance with ARSD 20:10:26:06. On October 19, 2015, notice of the master metering variance request was published in the Aberdeen American News newspaper in accordance with ARSD 20:10:26:06. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 12, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. After discussing the filing, the Commission deferred the docket. On November 19, 2015, Aberdeen Housing Authority filed a request for a continuance. At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 24, 2015, the Commission approved the continuance.

On February 3, 2016, Aberdeen Housing Authority filed a letter that provided its responses to Commission Staff's data requests and clarified that the multi-family housing structure will have electric service only. On February 24, 2016, Commission Staff filed a Staff Memorandum.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-27, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:26, particularly 20:10:26:03, 20:10:26:04, 20:10:26:05, and 20:10:26:06.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2016, the Commission again considered this matter. Finding that Aberdeen Housing Authority's request for a variance set forth compelling reasons for granting the variance, including cost effectiveness, energy efficiency, and energy conservation effects, the Commission unanimously voted to grant the request.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that Aberdeen Housing Authority's request for a master metering variance for

a 40 unit multi-family housing structure in Aberdeen, South Dakota, is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of March, 2016.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: Karen E. Cremer

Date: 3/03/16

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Flegen
KRISTIE FLEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner