

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

**IN THE MATTER OF STAFF'S REQUEST)
TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE)
TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT ON SOUTH)
DAKOTA UTILITIES)
)
)
)**

**ORDER AUTHORIZING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
ENTER INTO A CONSULTING
CONTRACT

GE17-003**

On December 21, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Commission staff (Staff) requesting a docket be opened to investigate the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on South Dakota utilities. Staff also filed a Motion Requesting Order Requiring Comments and Securing Tax Effects for Customers as of January 1, 2018 (Motion). In the Motion, Staff requested the Commission investigate the effect the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Act) will have on South Dakota utilities and requested the Commission issue an order requiring utilities to submit comments on the effect the Act will have on each utility. Additionally, Staff requested the Commission issue an order that any adjustment to rates due to the Act be effective on January 1, 2018.

On December 22, 2017, the Commission issued an Order for and Notice of Motion Hearing on Less than 10 Days' Notice. On December 28, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 12, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. On December 29, 2017, the Commission issued an Order Requiring Comments; Order Requiring Rates in Effect January 1, 2018, are Subject to Refund; Order Granting Intervention. On January 29, 2018, NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) submitted initial comments and on February 1, 2018, Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (BHP), Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resource Group, Inc. (MDU), MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel), and Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) filed initial comments. On April 3, 2018, NorthWestern filed Additional Comments and Specific Proposals.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, and 49-34A-26.

On April 3, 2018, at the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting, Staff requested that the Commission give the executive director authority to enter into a consulting contract to assist Staff in the investigation of this docket. The Commission voted unanimously to give the executive director authority to enter into a consulting contract. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into a consulting contract.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of April 2018.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4/17/18</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Pegen
KRISTIE PEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner