

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL)
OF REVISIONS TO ITS TARIFF SECTION NO. 5)

ORDER APPROVING
TARIFF REVISIONS

NG13-004

On August 30, 2013, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by Northwestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of revisions to Section No. 5, Sheet No. 6.2 of NWE's filed natural gas tariff, which requires the fuel retention percentage to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. NWE proposes to update the retention percentage rates for both distribution customers and large volume customers with an average daily usage of 30,000 therms or more. NWE states that customers who fit this high usage criterion are primarily direct connect customers whose gas system is not subject to the normal losses in a distribution system. NWE seeks an effective date of October 1, 2013.

On September 5, 2013, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 20, 2013, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On September 16, 2013, NWE filed a revised Section No. 5, Sheet No. 6.2. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 5

18th Revised Sheet No. 6.2

Canceling 17th Revised Sheet No. 6.2

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, including 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-10 and 49-34A-25, and ARSD 20:10:13:02 through 20:10:13:28.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of the tariff revisions as revised and a waiver of the 30-day notice to Commission requirement of ARSD 20:10:13:23. Finding the tariff revisions to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the tariff revisions on less than 30 days notice. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NWE's revised tariff as described above is approved on less than 30 days notice, effective October 1, 2013.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of September, 2013.

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.
By: <u>Joy Laskley</u>
Date: <u>09.26.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner