

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
 :SS
COUNTY OF HUGHES)

IN CIRCUIT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

In the Matter of
Commission Staff's Petition
for Declaratory Ruling
Regarding Farm Tap Customers
(NG 16-014)

32-CIV-17-71
32-CIV-17-83

**Stipulation and Order for
Consolidation and Briefing
Schedule**

WHEREAS, Northern Natural Gas Co. (Northern) has filed an administrative appeal from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, bearing case number 32-CIV-17-71; and

WHEREAS, NorthWestern Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) has filed a cross appeal bearing case number 32-CIV-17-83; and

WHEREAS, in the interests of economic efficiency and judicial economy, the parties wish to consolidate their two appeals, and to establish an appropriate briefing schedule; and

WHEREAS, counsel for the parties have conferred and agreed to the entry of the following Order;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereby stipulate and agree as follows:

1. That the two pending administrative appeals in Cases 32CIV17-71 and 32CIV17-83 will be consolidated into one action;
2. The parties will abide by the following briefing schedule:
 - a. May 2, 2017: Northern will serve its opening brief on the issues in 32-CIV 17-71;
 - b. June 2, 2017: NorthWestern will serve its opening brief on issues in 32-CIV 17-83, and to include its response to Northern's opening brief on the issues in 32 CIV 17-71;

- c. July 3, 2017: All other parties other than Northern and NorthWestern will serve any response to the opening briefs of Northern and Northwestern on the issues in both 32 CIV 17-71 and 32 CIV 17-83;
- d. July 19, 2017: Northern will serve its response brief in response to NorthWestern's opening brief on issues in 32-CIV 17-83, and Northern will serve its reply brief, if any, on the issues in 32-CIV17-71; and
- e. August 2, 2017: NorthWestern will serve its reply brief, if any, on the issues in 32 CIV 17-83.

3. The Court will hear oral arguments on September 18, 2017 at the Hughes County Courthouse, Pierre, South Dakota, at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2017.



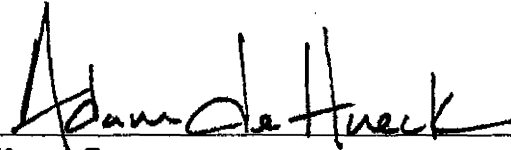
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Dated this 24th day of April, 2017.



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Dated this 24th day of April, 2017.



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Dated this 24 day of April, 2017.



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ORDER

Based on the foregoing stipulation of the parties, and for good cause appearing, it is ORDERED, that the above stipulation of the parties is approved and incorporated herein by reference.

Dated this ____ day of April, 2017.

BY THE COURT:

Mark W. Barnett
Circuit Court Judge

ATTEST:
KELLI SITZMAN
Clerk of Courts

By _____
Deputy Clerk of Courts