

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)
)**

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION**

EL23-016

On June 15, 2023, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$30.9 million annually or approximately 16.32% based on NorthWestern's 2022 historic test year. NorthWestern states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of \$19.14 per month. The proposed changes may affect approximately 64,680 customers.

On June 22, 2023, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 11, 2023, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene were filed. Comments were received and are available for review on the Commission's web site for this docket at <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2023/EL23-016Comments.aspx>.

On July 12, 2023, the Commission issued an Order Suspending Operation of Proposed Rates; Order Assessing Filing Fee; Order Authorizing Consulting Contracts. On December 20, 2023, NorthWestern and staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation, and staff filed a Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation.

The revised tariff sheets proposed by NorthWestern, effective for service rendered on and after January 10, 2024, are as follows:

South Dakota Electric Rate Schedule

Section No. 1

17th Revised Sheet. No. 1 Canceling 16th Revised Sheet No. 1

Section No. 3

18th Revised Sheet. No. 1 Canceling 17th Revised Sheet No. 1
13th Revised Sheet. No. 2 Canceling 12th Revised Sheet No. 2
16th Revised Sheet. No. 3 Canceling 15th Revised Sheet No. 3
14th Revised Sheet. No. 4 Canceling 13th Revised Sheet No. 4
20th Revised Sheet. No. 5 Canceling 19th Revised Sheet No. 5
17th Revised Sheet. No. 6 Canceling 16th Revised Sheet No. 6
14th Revised Sheet. No. 8 Canceling 13th Revised Sheet No. 8
20th Revised Sheet. No. 9 Canceling 19th Revised Sheet No. 9
16th Revised Sheet. No. 10 Canceling 15th Revised Sheet No. 10
17th Revised Sheet. No. 11 Canceling 16th Revised Sheet No. 11
17th Revised Sheet. No. 12 Canceling 16th Revised Sheet No. 12
18th Revised Sheet. No. 14 Canceling 17th Revised Sheet No. 14
17th Revised Sheet. No. 15 Canceling 16th Revised Sheet No. 15
2nd Revised Sheet. No. 15.1 Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 15.1
12th Revised Sheet. No. 18 Canceling 11th Revised Sheet No. 18
2nd Revised Sheet. No. 18.1 Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 18.1
7th Revised Sheet. No. 22 Canceling 6th Revised Sheet No. 22

16th Revised Sheet. No. 23 Canceling 15th Revised Sheet No. 23
 11th Revised Sheet. No. 25 Canceling 10th Revised Sheet No. 25
 10th Revised Sheet. No. 25.1 Canceling 9th Revised Sheet No. 25.1
 16th Revised Sheet. No. 28 Canceling 15th Revised Sheet No. 28
 11th Revised Sheet. No. 33 Canceling 10th Revised Sheet No. 33
 6th Revised Sheet. No. 33.1 Canceling 5th Revised Sheet No. 33.1
 9th Revised Sheet. No. 36 Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 36

Section No. 5

4th Revised Sheet. No. 1a Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 1a
 18th Revised Sheet. No. 3 Canceling 17th Revised Sheet No. 3

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-20, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, and 49-34A-21.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2024, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission heard from NorthWestern and Commission staff concerning the Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after having made further extensive inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation that granted NorthWestern an annual increase in base rates to recover a net revenue deficiency of approximately \$21.5 million. This translates to an 11.38% increase in total electric bills or a 17.97% increase in base electric rates with a typical residential customer using an average of 750 kWh per month seeing an increase of \$13.67 in their monthly bill.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Settlement Stipulation is hereby approved and incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that the aforementioned tariff sheets are approved for service rendered on and after January 10, 2024.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of January 2024.

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:	<u><i>Kristie Fiegen</i></u>
Date:	<u>10 January 2024</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
 KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
 GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
 CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner