

GE 99-002

NorthWestern™

P U B L I C S E R V I C E

GE 99-002

600 Market Street W
Huron, SD 57350-1500
Telephone: 605-352-8411
Facsimile: 605-353-7519
Internet: www.northwestern.com

Russell C. Molstad, Jr.
Corporate Attorney
Telephone: 605-353-7504
Facsimile: 605-353-7519
rmolstad@northwestern.com

April 9, 1999

RECEIVED

APR 12 1999

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. Dave Jacobson
S. D. Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501-5070

Dear Dave,

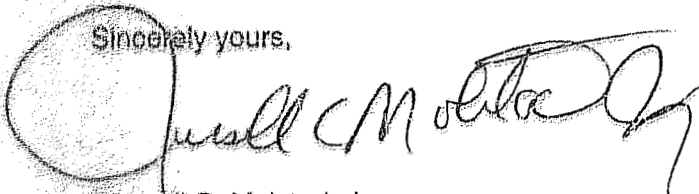
Thank you for your prompt attention to my inquiry concerning placing information on our bill concerning payment of a customer's bill by credit card. It is my understanding that you will be attempting to change the rules to make it less burdensome for inquiries such as these.

The message that we will be proposing to put on the bill is as follows: Now you can charge your monthly NorthWestern bill to your Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card. Call 1-800-245-6977. This statement will be placed in the information message center on the bill for such period of time as we would deem it sufficient to let the customers know of this service to them.

As a reminder, we did send several months ago, notification to the Commission proposing the ability of the customers to pay by credit card. This service is at no charge to the customer. This message is simply to notify the customers that we do have this service in place for their use if they so desire.

I would appreciate if you would let me know when this matter will be on the agenda so that I can participate by phone to answer any questions that you might have. If you have any further questions, let me know.

Sincerely yours,



Russell C. Molstad, Jr.
Corporate Attorney

BS

cc: Kim Thompson-Rieger
Dennis Heinz



Rusty Molstad
605-353-7504
605-353-7519
rmolstad@northwestern.com

600 Market Street West
Huron, SD 57350-1600
Telephone: 600-245-6977
Facsimile:
Internet: www.northwestern.com

Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

To: Dave Jacobson, SDPUC
Fax Number: 605-773-3809
Date: April 15, 1999
Number of Pages including This Cover: 2

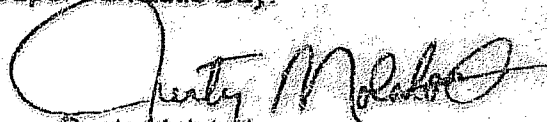
Comments:

Re: Credit Card Payment Information

Attached to this letter is a NorthWestern bill with the proposed wording about the credit card payment option. You will note that this information appears in the Information Center of the bill.

I do appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Thank you for expediting the review of this item by the commission.

Please call if you have questions. Have a Super Fantastic Day.


Rusty Molstad

cc: Kim Thompson-Rieger
John Armstrong

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of April 8, 1999 through April 14, 1999

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing.
Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

GAS AND ELECTRIC

~~RM99-001~~ **In the Matter of the Filing by Northwestern Public Service Company for Approval to Add Language to its Customers' Bills**

Application by Northwestern Public Service Company to publish information on bills concerning customer's ability to pay by credit card.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 04/12/99
Intervention Deadline: NA

RULE MAKING

RM99-001 In the Matter of the Establishment of New and Revised Telecommunications Rules.

On April 8, 1999, the Commission opened a docket to establish new and revised telecommunications rules. The proposed rules seek to implement Senate Bill 238 which prohibits slamming and cramming and provides penalties for offenders. The new law goes into effect on July 1, 1999.

Hearing Date: 1:30 p.m. on May 13, 1999, Room 412 of the State Capitol, Pierre, SD

Staff Analyst: All Staff
General Counsel: Rolayne Wiest
Date Docketed: 04/08/99
Written Comments Deadline: 05/24/99

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC99-036 In the Matter of the Application of SouthNet TeleComm Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

On April 13, 1999, the Commission received an application by SouthNet TeleComm Services, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to provide telecommunications services in South Dakota. SouthNet TeleComm Services, Inc. proposes to offer the following interexchange services on a resale basis within the State of South Dakota: intralATA and interLATA switched and dedicated outbound interexchange services, and calling card services accessed via company-provided "800/888" numbers.

Staff Analyst: Bob Knadle

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck

Date Filed: 04/13/99

Intervention Deadline: 04/30/99

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE) ADDITION OF LANGUAGE
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO ADD) ON CUSTOMERS' BILLS
LANGUAGE TO ITS CUSTOMERS' BILLS) GE99-002

On April 12, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northwestern Public Service Company (NWPS) requesting approval for the placing of information on a customer's bill. The message that NWPS proposed to put on the bill is as follows: "Now you can charge your monthly NorthWestern bill to your Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card. Call 1-800-245-6977." The statement will be placed in the information message center on the bill for such period of time as would be deemed sufficient to let the customers know of this service to them. The service will be provided at no charge to the customer.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 26, 1999, the Commission discussed final approval of the application. Commission Staff recommended approval of the addition of the language.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-4 and ARSD 20:10:17:03. The Commission finds the addition of the language to customers' bills is just and reasonable and approved the additional language. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED that addition of language to the customers' bills is approved and shall be effective as of the date of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of May, 1999.

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| 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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon. | |
| by | <u>Melanie Kalbo</u> |
| Date | <u>5/6/99</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) | |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner