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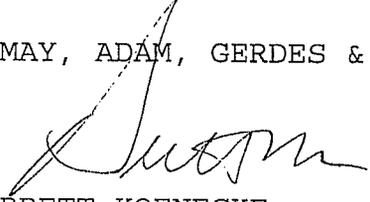
RE: NORTHWESTERN/BBI TRANSACTION
Docket GE06-001
Our file: 0230

Dear Patty:

Enclosed are original and 10 copies of Applicants' Reply Brief on Jurisdiction with Certificate of Service. Please file the enclosure. With a copy of this letter I am sending copies of the enclosure to counsel of record by both first class mail and electronic means where possible.

Yours truly,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP


BRETT KOENECKE

BK:mw

Enclosures

cc/enc: Tom Knapp
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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NOV 29 2006

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER) DOCKET NO. GE06-001
BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN)
CORPORATION AND BBI GLACIER) **APPLICANTS' REPLY**
CORP., A SUBSIDIARY OF) **BRIEF ON JURISDICTION**
BABCOCK & BROWN)
INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED)

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

NorthWestern Corporation ("NorthWestern") and Babcock & Brown Infrastructure Limited ("BBIL") (together, the "Applicants") file this reply brief in response to the brief of Intervenors Heartland Consumers Power District ("Heartland") and South Dakota Power Co. ("SDPC") (together, the "Intervenors") on the question of jurisdiction. The reference to "Intervenors" in this brief is limited to those specified. None of the other intervenors in this docket has filed a brief.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Intervenors have completely misinterpreted NorthWestern's basic argument (with which Staff agrees): the purpose and context of Chapter 49-34A require that gross regulated revenues are the measure. Under that standard, gross in state revenues are no more than 14.82 percent. Applicants believe the analysis ends here.

That said, for the most part, Intervenors have ignored the extensive legal precedent cited by Applicants for these propositions:

1. While better reasoned authority holds that "gross revenue" establishes a broad and inclusive measure for the calculation of revenue, the courts readily recognize that this broad view is dependent upon limiting context and language within the statutory framework being examined.

2. The courts have not had the slightest bit of reluctance to enforce limiting terms, such as ". . . receiving more than twenty-five percent of . . . gross revenue [from operations] in this state . . .," to allocate revenue to effect a statutory standard.

Intervenors have also ignored the most recent and relevant twelve month set of calculations raised by Commission Staff. Two parallel avenues of revenue analysis have come into play, one dealing with year-end December 31, 2005, and the other dealing with the 12 months ending June 30, 2006. As recited in Applicants' initial brief, in each 12-month period dealing with gross regulated and unregulated revenues, three calculations were produced. Of the six figures produced, only one figure (from December 31, 2005) exceeded the 25 percent threshold. Under the authority cited by

both applicants and staff this percentage is an inappropriate measure, and in any event, the comparable figure for the 12 months ending June 30, 2006, does not reach 25 percent. Intervenors chose not to comment on this. Based on this analysis, even consideration of Nebraska unregulated revenue does not implicate the statute.

In any event, under a plain reading of the statute, there is no way that it can be read to require the inclusion of Nebraska revenues. And thus the 25 percent threshold cannot be reached.

ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES

At the outset, it should be noted that a typographical error exists on page 2 of Intervenors' brief. NorthWestern emerged from bankruptcy in November of 2004, not 1994. (Bird depo at 24.)

NorthWestern relies upon the discussion and authorities set forth in its initial brief. We also note that Commission Staff has independently arrived at essentially the same conclusion. NorthWestern submits that Intervenors have either ignored or failed to successfully refute its previously advocated conclusions.

At page 7 of its brief, NorthWestern posits its fundamental position, that ". . . the statute clearly relates to gross *regulated* revenue in this state." Under that test the percentage is less than 15 percent. Intervenors have misinterpreted this issue, arguing that it requires introducing an omitted word into

the statute. To the contrary, as stated in the Moore case cited later in this brief, the "manifest intent" of this statute must be ". . . derived from the statute as a whole, as well as other enactments relating to the same subject." Moore, infra., brief, p.6. NorthWestern discussed this analysis in its initial brief. The long standing interpretation of the application of the gross receipts tax (which was first adopted with Chapter 49-34A) to regulated revenues by the Commission furnishes ample reason to apply SDCL 49-34A-38.1 to regulated revenues.

After discussing NorthWestern's calculation of its revenues in pages 3 through 6 of its brief, Intervenors conclude that ". . . using NorthWestern's own methodology and numbers, the only issue is whether to use the second calculation, which includes Nebraska gas revenues, or the third, which does not." While NorthWestern does not agree that Intervenors have described the "only issue," it does acknowledge that Intervenors have stated the determinative issue in this proceeding if the Commission chooses to go beyond regulated revenues. More important from NorthWestern's perspective, however, the discussion by Intervenors shows that they do not seriously disagree with NorthWestern's revenue calculations and the methodology by which NorthWestern arrives at the several percentages.

As stated in NorthWestern's initial brief, six computations have been made, only one of which exceeds the 25 percent threshold. Computations using revenues for the year ended December 31, 2005, with 12 months ended June 30, 2006, in parenthesis, show:

- A. The gross regulated revenue in the state was 14.72 (14.82) percent of gross regulated revenue;
- B. The gross regulated revenue combined with unregulated revenue in this state was 20.84 (19.78) percent; and
- C. The gross regulated revenue combined with in-state and out-of-state unregulated revenue was 25.23 (23.84) percent.

Thus, only one computation, and one not based on the most recent figures, results in a percentage over 25 percent. More important, the one computation resulting in more than 25 percent includes out-of-state unregulated revenue which, as explained in Applicants' initial brief, does not comport with the requirement that revenues from operations in this state be considered under the statute.

Intervenors simply ignored the most recent figures, notwithstanding that the most recent figures are most indicative of the company's current condition.

Intervenors argue that Nebraska unregulated revenue must be counted because ". . . unlike its Montana-based revenue, NorthWestern has itself treated Nebraska and South Dakota revenue the same." (Brief, page 7.) In point of fact, NorthWestern has not treated the revenue from both states as one. Neither the FERC, nor the SEC, nor the Commission requires such a breakdown as a routine regulatory or reporting requirement. Within NorthWestern's accounting system, various ad hoc reports to regulatory agencies can be constructed and certain reoccurring reports are "mapped" from pro forma accounts (each of which has a discrete designator). In this process, before Montana Power was acquired, South Dakota and Nebraska unregulated gas sales were accounted for together under a particular system designator (NEC) but could be broken out as needed individually. When Montana power was acquired, it was simply added as a separate system designator (MTU)¹.

Intervenors next argue that the statute does not "require" the exclusion of Nebraska revenues. To the contrary, the statute is clear in stating that it is only gross revenue generated in South Dakota that applies to the benchmark. The line of cases cited in

¹See NorthWestern Controller Kendall Kliewer deposition, pp. 13, 21-24 and 43-49, attached.

Applicants' brief clearly requires the purpose and context of the statute to be taken into consideration in interpreting the statute. Similarly, the South Dakota Supreme Court has spoken on the subject:

Each statute must be construed according to its manifest intent as derived from the statute as a whole, as well as other enactments relating to the same subject. Words used by the legislature are presumed to convey their ordinary, popular meaning, unless the context or the legislature's apparent intention justifies departure. When conflicting statutes appear, it is the responsibility of the court to give reasonable construction to both, and to give effect, if possible to all provisions under consideration, construing them to be harmonious and workable.

Moore vs. Michelin Tire Co. Inc., 1999 SD 152, ¶ 16, 603 NW2d 513, 518. In the context of this proceeding, it is clear that "gross revenue in this state" means something specific. The "manifest intent" of the statute is clear and speaks to revenue from operations in this state.

The unregulated sale of natural gas in Nebraska, delivered in Nebraska, under the authorities cited in the initial brief clearly is not revenue generated from South Dakota operations². At page 9 of their brief, Intervenors suggest that NorthWestern has provided

²NorthWestern's first data production under the first scheduling order included the Nebraska gas supply contract dated July 24, 1997, establishing the Nebraska points of delivery of unregulated sales, identified as: "The pdf file is the contract between NEC (now NSC) and the utility for the nonregulated Nebraska revenues generated. Paragraph I.A details the delivery points in Nebraska."

no authority for the proposition that gross revenue relates only to regulated revenue. In doing so, they ignore the Arkansas Power case cited in our brief. That case clearly concluded that unregulated revenue should not be a part of gross revenue, thus confining the inquiry to regulated revenue.

Intervenors go on to criticize the authorities cited by Applicants at pages 8 through 12 of the brief, concluding that a different statutory test for allocation of revenues was at work in the cited cases. However, the statutory test involved in South Dakota is “. . . receiving more than 25 percent of . . . gross revenue in this state . . .” SDCL § 49-34A-38.1. The context of the statute within the framework of Chapter 49-34A clearly refers to the receipt of revenue for operations in the state of South Dakota. That is the statutory test which must be implemented by the Commission. The authorities cited by Applicants simply show that the courts give full recognition of limiting language such as this. The reason for the limitation to in-state revenue is manifest: a South Dakota Commission has no more business regulating the business aspects of a Nebraska regulated utility, than has a Nebraska Commission in regulating a South Dakota regulated utility.

CONCLUSION

Intervenors conclude that “. . . because revenue from the sale of natural gas in Nebraska is revenue to a South Dakota corporation, it is revenue received in this state . . .” Such a conclusion flies not only in the face of the applicable statute, but in the face of the established authority cited in Applicants’ brief. Revenue from Montana operations finds its way to the bottom line at NorthWestern. No one would consider including that revenue for consideration under the statute. For all the reasons cited in their initial brief, Applicants request that the Commission conclude that it has no jurisdiction to consider approval of the transaction.

Dated this 29th day of November, 2006.

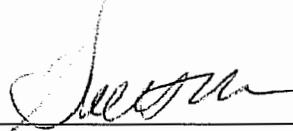
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Brett Koenecke of May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP hereby certifies that on the 29th day of November, 2006, he mailed by United States mail, first class postage thereon prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known addresses, to-wit:

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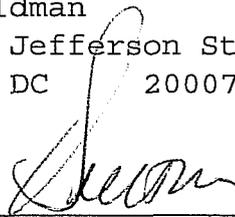
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Brett Koenecke

1 A. No.
 2 Q. So is it fair to say the only reporting you
 3 make to any public agency that would separately
 4 identify South Dakota revenue of Northwestern
 5 Corporation or any of its subsidiaries is to
 6 the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Because from my reading of your 10K to the SEC,
 9 there's no breakout of revenues by state.
 10 A. Correct.
 11 Q. Your previous position at Northwestern was
 12 chief accountant. Is that correct?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Who did you do as the chief accountant?
 15 A. I was hired as chief accountant in November of
 16 2002, and primarily to do technical accounting
 17 research and oversee the SEC reporting.
 18 Q. Did you have any previous position at
 19 Northwestern Corporation?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Do you know who your employer actually is? Are
 22 you an employee of Northwestern Corporation?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Do you have an employment contract?
 25 A. No.

1 Q. But you get a check from Northwestern
 2 Corporation?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. To your knowledge are all the employees who
 5 work in the office in Sioux Falls employees of
 6 Northwestern Corporation?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Can you tell me what you did before you started
 9 work for Northwestern Corporation?
 10 A. Sure. I was a CPA with KPMG in Lincoln,
 11 Nebraska. I was a senior manager on the audit
 12 side.
 13 Q. How long were you there?
 14 A. I was there right at five years.
 15 Q. Were you employed before starting with KPMG?
 16 A. I was. I worked for a small local firm in
 17 Aurora, Nebraska, for my first two years out of
 18 college.
 19 Q. When did you obtain your -- when did you become
 20 a CPA?
 21 A. May of 1994.
 22 Q. Can you just tell me about your education after
 23 high school?
 24 A. I graduated from the University of Nebraska in
 25 Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in business

1 administration.
 2 Q. What year was that?
 3 A. May of '94.
 4 MR. GERDES: And he is a Nebraska football
 5 fan, by the way.
 6 Q. My sympathies. I want to ask you a little
 7 about Northwestern Corporation and its
 8 corporate structure. My understanding, from
 9 its reporting, is that Northwestern Corporation
 10 is actually a Delaware corporation. Are you
 11 familiar with the incorporation of
 12 Northwestern?
 13 A. Yes. I know it is a Delaware corporation,
 14 yes.
 15 Q. Can you tell me what wholly-owned subsidiaries
 16 Northwestern Corporation has? We can do this
 17 both as of today and as of December 31 of
 18 2005.
 19 Why don't we start with year end last
 20 year, 12-31-05. What were the wholly-owned
 21 subsidiaries of Northwestern Corporation?
 22 A. Northwestern had underneath it Northwestern
 23 Services Corporation. It was a wholly-owned
 24 subsidiary.
 25 Northwestern Services Corporation has its

1 own wholly-owned subsidiary called Nekota
 2 Resources.
 3 Northwestern -- I have to think about this
 4 a little while, because we've changed a number
 5 of times over the last few years. We also have
 6 a captive insurance subsidiary that is Risk
 7 Partners Assurance.
 8 We have a subsidiary that's now named
 9 Northwestern Investments, LLC. That was
 10 formerly Northwestern Growth Corporation, and I
 11 don't remember exactly when we converted it to
 12 an LLC.
 13 Those are, without seeing an org chart,
 14 those are the only ones that I remember we have
 15 and had as of year end.
 16 Northwestern Investments also has some
 17 wholly-owned subsidiaries. One is Montana
 18 Megawatts, I believe. That one is a little bit
 19 of a convoluted structure. There's three or
 20 four subsidiaries within there. I don't
 21 remember the exact legal names offhand.
 22 And Northwestern Investments also had, as
 23 of 12-31-05, had a subsidiary named Netexit,
 24 Inc., which was liquidated and is in the -- the
 25 actual legal structure has either been

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 subsidiary of Northwestern Services 2 Corporation. 3 A. Correct. 4 Q. And tell me again what Nekota does. 5 A. It owns a pipeline, about I believe 23 miles of 6 pipeline. It was established to hold that 7 pipeline to serve our unregulated customers. 8 Q. In South Dakota or in Nebraska? 9 A. In South Dakota. 10 Q. Is there any other business that provides 11 revenue to Northwestern Services Corporation? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Is there any external reporting that 14 Northwestern Corporation does that identifies 15 separately the income of Northwestern Services 16 Corporation? 17 A. Not by itself. Our SEC reports break down our 18 segments, and Northwestern Services Corporation 19 rolls up under -- most of it rolls up under 20 unregulated gas. 21 Q. Is there separate financial reporting that's 22 done for Northwestern Services Corporation? 23 A. Separate external financial reporting? 24 Q. That's fine. We can start there. 25 A. No.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 and NEK and GRT. Those would show you the 2 revenues and costs of each of those company 3 codes or divisions. 4 Q. One of the attachments to the initial 5 disclosure Northwestern Corporation made to the 6 South Dakota PUC was in I believe Excel form. 7 When I looked at it in Excel form on the 8 computer, it had several attachments. Those 9 pages were indicated I believe as NPS and then 10 NEC, NCS and NEK. Are you familiar with that? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. What I'm talking about. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Just so I understand exactly what it is I'm 15 looking at, as part of that document, the chart 16 that's attributable to NPS, is NPS a company 17 code? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. What is NPS? 20 A. That is the regulated utility. It includes the 21 revenues from all our regulated electric and 22 natural gas customers. 23 Q. The next one I think is NEC. Correct? 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. Again, that's a company code?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 Q. What internal financial reporting is done 2 within Northwestern Corporation for 3 Northwestern Services Corporation? 4 A. It rolls up through our consolidation, and we 5 have separate budgets. So we do a separate 6 budget to actual comparison every month. 7 Q. Is there a monthly financial statement that 8 would be produced for Northwestern Services 9 Corporation? 10 A. Not that we would typically do on a stand-alone 11 basis. It's included in our consolidated 12 results. 13 Q. When you say "our consolidated results," you 14 mean for internal or external purposes? 15 A. Both. 16 Q. Is it identified? Is there a place where I can 17 go in the report and see the revenue of 18 Northwestern Services Corporation? 19 A. Not that you could go, no. I could. 20 Q. Where do you go to identify the revenue of 21 Northwestern Services Corporation? 22 A. Within our SAP or -- our software that does our 23 accounting. Then we have what we term as 24 company codes. Company codes that are part of 25 Northwestern Services Corporation are NCS, NEC,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 A. That's a company code, and that's the 2 unregulated gas sales under Northwestern 3 Services Corporation. 4 Q. Then NCS is a company code? 5 A. NCS is a company code. That's the company code 6 under Northwestern Services Corporation that we 7 report the revenues for the folks that do the 8 furnace and air conditioning repairs. 9 Q. And NEK? 10 A. NEK is the company code for Nekota. 11 Q. The last one that you mentioned that was not 12 part of the documents that were disclosed to 13 the PUC was I believe GRT. 14 A. GRT is the company code under Northwestern 15 Services Corporation. That's the one where we 16 hold the property. There were no revenues with 17 that, which is why we didn't provide it. 18 Q. Do I understand correctly that Northwestern 19 Services Corporation has nothing to do with 20 your regulated utility business, so there is no 21 revenue that would be reported under 22 Northwestern Services Corporation as part of 23 company code NPS? 24 A. That is correct. It does have the management 25 agreement related to Nebraska. So there's</p>

1 Corporation show up?
 2 A. It would show up in that line item, I believe
 3 it's titled Equity and Earnings of Affiliated
 4 Companies or Equity and Earnings of
 5 Subsidiaries. If you were -- I guess a simple
 6 example, if this \$154 million, that's only the
 7 revenue. If we were to go down the full income
 8 statement for these subsidiaries, and let's
 9 just say you had costs of \$150 million and you
 10 had net income of \$4 million, for your SEC
 11 purposes you're going to show all those gross
 12 and come across. So you'll include that \$154
 13 million in revenues, \$150 million in cost of
 14 sales, so you end up with net income of
 15 \$4 million.
 16 For FERC purposes, you don't show the
 17 revenues. You don't show the costs. You show
 18 one line item that says Equity and Earnings of
 19 Subsidiaries, \$4 million. Then that would be
 20 -- I don't remember exactly where it's at on
 21 the FERC Form 1 income statement, but it's not
 22 included in revenues. It's included in a
 23 separate line item. I can go back and look and
 24 tell you exactly where.
 25 Q. Let's go to the next category of numbers on the

1 the top of the schedule. The \$55,290,000 is
 2 natural gas, which ties out to the number at
 3 the top of the schedule.
 4 Then the only different piece is what is
 5 attributable to our Nebraska regulated natural
 6 gas sales.
 7 Q. I understood that NPS was your company code for
 8 basically all regulated revenue of Northwestern
 9 Corporation.
 10 A. In South Dakota, Nebraska. I'm sorry. We have
 11 completely separate codes for Montana. Yes.
 12 Q. What is the coding for Montana revenues? Are
 13 they not part of NPS?
 14 A. They are not part of NPS. It's a separate
 15 company code. We call it MPU in our system.
 16 Q. Is all Montana regulated revenue under that
 17 code?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Looking at the second page of Exhibit 1, there
 20 are three calculations there. Correct?
 21 A. Correct.
 22 Q. Could you explain to me -- before we get
 23 there.
 24 (A recess was taken)
 25 Q. We were talking about the difference between

1 first page of Exhibit 1 identified as NPS
 2 Revenue. There you've got FERC IS and SEC IS.
 3 Those numbers are the same, \$214,975,502.
 4 Correct?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Tell me what those numbers are.
 7 A. FERC IS stands for FERC Income Statement, and
 8 SEC Income Statement. So those are the
 9 revenues that show up in both cases. As I
 10 mentioned earlier, there's no differences in
 11 South Dakota between SEC purposes and FERC
 12 purposes.
 13 That's what we were trying to show is that
 14 reconciliation down here, and then as you'll
 15 note right below that, we break it out between
 16 South Dakota Electric, South Dakota Gas, and
 17 Nebraska Gas to tie out to \$214,975,000.
 18 Q. So that is not actually total NPS revenue.
 19 That's NPS revenue that you attribute to
 20 South Dakota.
 21 A. The \$214,975,000 is total NPS revenue.
 22 Q. It is.
 23 A. Yes. Right below that we show what we
 24 attribute to South Dakota. The \$104.3 million
 25 is electric, which ties out to the number at

1 SEC and FERC reporting. In Response to the
 2 South Dakota PUC dated August 24, 2006, in
 3 Paragraph 5 there was a question from the PUC
 4 about the difference. I just want to ask you
 5 about the response that was actually made there
 6 in Paragraph 5.
 7 A. Which question?
 8 Q. The document dated August 24, 2006.
 9 A. Question No. 5.
 10 Q. The first sentence of the response says, "The
 11 conversion from SEC reporting to FERC reporting
 12 for revenue is based on the direct mapping of
 13 the natural account to the FERC accounts."
 14 A. Okay.
 15 Q. Let's define some terms. If that doesn't work,
 16 I'll give you another chance to explain to me
 17 what that sentence says.
 18 A. Okay.
 19 Q. What do you mean by "direct mapping"?
 20 A. Well, maybe we should start with the accounts
 21 or what we have -- we call it the chart of
 22 accounts. Natural chart of accounts is what we
 23 have for -- what we call a natural chart of
 24 accounts for SEC purposes. That's basically
 25 you have revenues, cost of sales, and then we

1 have several account numbers within any of
 2 these categories. We have operating expenses
 3 on down the line.
 4 Q. Is this part of general accounting principles?
 5 A. Well it's basically every company may have a
 6 separate -- everybody has a chart of accounts.
 7 Your basic requirements are to break it down by
 8 revenue, cost of sales, operating expenses,
 9 taxes, interest expense, and some other
 10 categories.
 11 Every company will set up their chart of
 12 accounts differently, but they all have to be
 13 fairly consistent within those categories. So
 14 you have your chart of accounts may say, okay,
 15 I've got -- you may have one account number for
 16 electricity sales, one account number for
 17 natural gas sales, and one account number for
 18 propane sales. Same thing down the line for
 19 your cost of sales, you may do the same thing.
 20 Then on down.
 21 FERC prescribes a chart of accounts. It's
 22 called a FERC chart of accounts. I think it's
 23 actually called FERC Uniform System of
 24 Accounts. They're very specific in how they
 25 want things coded for FERC purposes. So they

1 guess the term "direct mapping" means we then
 2 establish orders. So we've got say a revenue
 3 account would be like 4,000. I sell you
 4 electricity, send you an invoice for \$50, and I
 5 code this revenue from you to Account 4000.
 6 The mapping then is we establish orders
 7 that designate for FERC purposes where this
 8 would flow under the FERC uniform system of
 9 accounts. The orders are -- I don't know how
 10 they determine what to name them, but they are
 11 just every single natural account on the income
 12 statement has a FERC order assigned to it.
 13 That's what the mapping is is that order.
 14 After we finish our SEC reporting for any
 15 given month -- internally we do it monthly.
 16 Then we turn around and convert to the FERC
 17 uniform system of accounts. Those are
 18 system-generated reports that basically if I
 19 had your revenue was coded to 4000 and it had
 20 an order that was -- say it was an electric
 21 order, it would take that number, take your
 22 amount, turn around and convert it or put it in
 23 that spot under the FERC reporting.
 24 And say you had an invoice for you, as
 25 well. It was electric, but maybe there was

1 have very descriptive information for the types
 2 of revenue that would be in a certain FERC
 3 account number. You can go to their book or
 4 their guide, and you look at FERC Uniform
 5 System of Accounts, and you can figure out
 6 should this revenue be here or there.
 7 So it's actually a little more cumbersome
 8 or I guess if everybody is reporting
 9 consistently on a FERC basis, then you know you
 10 are getting apples to apples between
 11 companies.
 12 SEC reporting or GAP reporting is
 13 different because there's not -- since there
 14 are so many different types of industries
 15 reporting under that method, you are basically
 16 on your own to determine how you want to report
 17 it in your chart of accounts.
 18 So that's what we say. When we set our
 19 SAP, our system is set up using natural --
 20 using a natural chart of accounts or an SEC
 21 accounting basis. So everything is coded that
 22 way. When any invoice is entered into the
 23 system, it's coded to an account number that
 24 then for revenues would roll into revenues.
 25 Then we actually have to establish -- I

1 some difference. Just a different area or
 2 something that FERC decided they wanted it
 3 reported differently. So I've got a different
 4 order number for you.
 5 For SEC reporting it would end up in the
 6 same exact account. There's a different order
 7 type to it when I convert to FERC, and that's
 8 all kind of system generated, the conversion
 9 is. Since it has that separate order assigned
 10 to it, it takes and maps it to a different FERC
 11 account for FERC purposes. I don't know, that
 12 was probably way too long.
 13 Q. Let's just talk about South Dakota unregulated
 14 revenue. That is part of your SEC reporting
 15 and included in your total revenue reported to
 16 SEC. Correct?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. How is that mapped to FERC?
 19 A. It's mapped because it has a separate order
 20 that takes it out of revenues for FERC purposes
 21 and moves it down to equity and earnings of
 22 subsidiary.
 23 Q. So the order just carries it to a different
 24 accounting category for FERC purposes.
 25 A. Right.

1 Q. Who determines the orders that are in place? I
 2 mean is that something you set up at
 3 Northwestern Corporation based on what FERC
 4 accounting requires, or does FERC accounting
 5 say here is the order that you have to use?

6 A. No. We set it up. The orders are set up to
 7 get it to what FERC requires. We establish our
 8 own orders. It's using the IT folks go in and
 9 configure it so it goes to the right bucket in
 10 FERC.

11 Q. The second sentence of the response in
 12 Paragraph 5 says, "For revenues each account is
 13 directly mapped to a FERC account so there is a
 14 one-to-one relationship between SEC reporting
 15 and FERC reporting."

16 What I understand that sentence to say is
 17 that every line item showing revenue for
 18 purposes of SEC reporting has a corresponding
 19 line item under FERC accounting, but it may be
 20 different than it was for SEC reporting.

21 A. Right.

22 Q. The revenue doesn't disappear, but it may show
 23 up in a different category.

24 A. Different place, exactly.

25 Q. Let's go back to Exhibit 1 and talk about the

1 electric segment in Montana sells to our
 2 regulated electric segment. So they recognize
 3 revenues. The regulated segment recognizes
 4 costs. We eliminate those out because it's all
 5 intercompany revenues.

6 So what we did was add those, we grossed
 7 them up for this purpose to show you what -- I
 8 think it was basically looking at the
 9 definition under the statute, and we wanted to
 10 show what we considered to be gross revenues,
 11 which would have encompassed all the purchases
 12 or all the sales to whether they were
 13 intercompany or not.

14 Q. Here is what I and someone with no accounting
 15 background don't understand. You've taken an
 16 SEC total revenue of \$1,165,000,000. You've
 17 grossed it up, and it becomes a larger number
 18 of \$1,261,000,000, and you can explain you've
 19 done that by process of eliminations of
 20 revenue.

21 How do you go through eliminations of
 22 revenue between affiliates and come up with a
 23 larger total number?

24 A. Well, this is adding those eliminations. This
 25 is adding those back. For SEC purposes we

1 three calculations that are done on the second
 2 page there.

3 First of all, starting with Calculation
 4 No. 1, you've taken total South Dakota
 5 regulated revenue and unregulated revenue in
 6 South Dakota, and taken that total and
 7 determined what percentage it is of total
 8 grossed-up revenues for Northwestern
 9 Corporation. Correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So we have to answer the question, what is
 12 grossed-up revenue, and why are we looking at
 13 that as opposed to either the FERC revenue
 14 number that's on the first page of Exhibit 1 or
 15 the total revenue that you report for SEC
 16 purposes?

17 First of all, explain to me what total
 18 grossed-up revenue is.

19 A. Sure. The total grossed-up revenue, which is
 20 the \$1,261,354,865, is basically we start with
 21 our SEC reported revenue, and then there are a
 22 number of eliminations that are made.

23 So you start with \$1,165,000,000. There
 24 are a number of eliminations that are made for
 25 intercompany sales. So maybe our unregulated

1 eliminated intercompany sales, but then what
 2 we're doing is saying maybe under this
 3 definition of gross revenues we should show all
 4 of our gross revenues. So we added -- we just
 5 basically reversed that elimination and added
 6 it back and said here is what our gross company
 7 revenues are.

8 If you were looking -- if you were taking
 9 the SEC, the \$1.1 billion, you're adding
 10 roughly \$95,000,000 back. You're going to --
 11 if we were looking at this statement, you are
 12 also going to add \$95,000,000 to your cost of
 13 sales. That's what the elimination is.

14 For SEC purposes, they say don't recognize
 15 that for revenue. You show it as -- you net it
 16 out. For this purpose we're saying, where
 17 they're asking for gross revenues, so let's
 18 show them our gross revenues. If you would
 19 take it one step down, you would also see
 20 higher cost of sales associated with that gross
 21 revenues.

22 Q. Explain for me, if you can, why it makes sense
 23 to make that comparison as opposed to comparing
 24 total South Dakota regulated and unregulated
 25 revenue as a percentage of total SEC revenue.