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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY ) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF  
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE ) REVISIONS AND  
COMPANY FOR TARIFF REVISIONS ) APPROVING SETTLEMENT  
) NG96-015

On July 2, 1996, Northwestern Public Service Company of Huron, South Dakota (NWPS), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) the following proposed tariff revisions in its natural gas rate book:

- Section No 1            26th Revised Sheet No. 1  
                              3rd Revised Sheet No. 2
  
- Section No 2            6th Revised Sheet No. 1  
                              5th Revised Sheet No. 2
  
- Section No 3            15th Revised Sheet No. 1  
                              1st Revised Sheet No. 2  
                              6th Revised Sheet Nos. 3.1, 6.1, and 9  
                              2nd Revised Sheet Nos. 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 6.3, and 13.1  
                              5th Revised Sheet Nos. 4.1 and 9c  
                              3rd Revised Sheet Nos. 6.2, 7, and 11  
                              Original Sheet Nos. 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, and 6.11  
                              10th Revised Sheet No. 8  
                              121st Revised Sheet No. 9a  
                              19th Revised Sheet No. 9b  
                              140th Revised Sheet No. 11a
  
- Section No 5            2nd Revised Sheet Nos. 1 and 1a  
                              Original Sheet Nos. 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 7.1,  
                              7.2, and 7.3
  
- Section No 6            Original Sheet Nos. 22, 23, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 25.1, 25.2, 25.3,  
                              26, 27, and 28

On July 10, 1996, PAM Natural Gas, LLC (PNG) filed a petition to intervene in this matter. Intervention was granted to PNG on July 17, 1996. Settlement was reached between the parties and staff of the Commission. A hearing on whether the settlement should be approved was held on November 5, 1996, at which time evidence on the tariff revisions and true-up of the final costs of the manufactured gas site remediation was presented. Approval was requested for implementation effective December 1, 1996.

At an ad hoc meeting of November 12, 1996, the Commission considered approval of the tariffs.

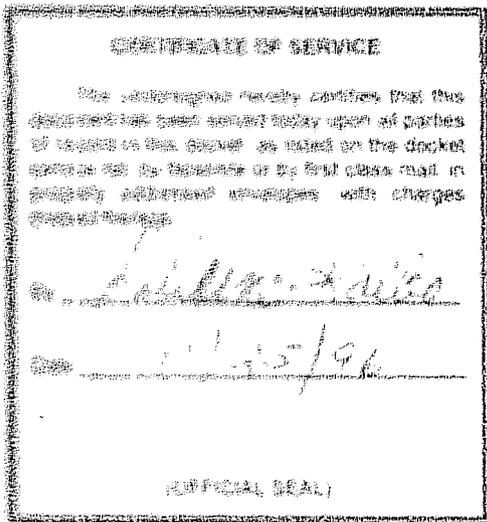
The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCI Chapter 49-10A specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10 and 49-34A-12. Upon the revisions based upon the settlement reached between the parties and Commission staff are just and reasonable and shall be approved subject to the following condition: NWPS shall make every effort to recover the manufactured gas plant remediation costs from whatever sources are available and shall report to the Commission quarterly starting six months from the date of this Order, as to the status of its efforts in collection of those costs.

As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

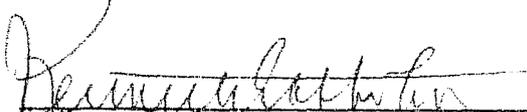
**ORDERED** that the Settlement Agreement reached between the parties and Commission staff is incorporated herein by reference and is approved; and it is further

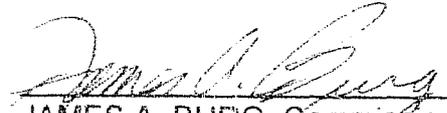
**ORDERED** that NWPS' revised tariffs as described above are approved upon the condition regarding reporting of collection efforts on the manufactured gas plant remediation costs and they shall be effective for service rendered on and after December 1, 1996.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1996.



BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

  
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner