

NG01-009

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NG01-009

BUCKET NO

7 pgs.

In the Matter of — THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY  
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF  
TARIFF REVISIONS

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE

MEMORANDA

DATE	MEMORANDA
8/29/01	Filed and Decided;
8/31/01	Publicly Filing;
9/27/01	Order Approving Tariff Revisions,
9/27/01	Order Closed.

NG01-009



August 28, 2001

Ms. Debra Elofson  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2001  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Gas Transportation Tariff Change - Fuel Retention Percentage

Dear Ms. Elofson:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of 6<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff. This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31.

The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2001 is 1.38%. This is a decrease of 0.48% from the currently effective retention percentage of 1.86%. The retention percentages effective October 1, 1998 and 1999 were 0.39% and 1.48%, respectively. Exhibit A, attached, shows the computation of the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the twelve month period ending July 31, 2001.

NorthWestern asks that the proposed retention percentage be approved to be effective October 1, 2001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff J. Decker".

Jeff J. Decker

enclosure

SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTH WESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
HURO  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5  
6<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2  
Cancelling 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2

**CLASS OF SERVICE:** Gas Transportation Tariffs  
**RATE DESIGNATION:** General Terms and Conditions

(Con't)

**6. Liability:**

- (a) General - Gas shall be and shall remain the property of the Customer while being transported and delivered by the Company. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss arising from or out of Gas Transportation Service while in the Company's system or for any other cause, except for gross or willful negligence of the Company's own employees. The Company reserves the right to commingle gas of the Customer with other gas supplies including propane and liquefied natural gas.
- (b) Insurance - The Customer shall be responsible for determining the extent of and maintaining all insurance it deems necessary to protect its property interest in such gas before, during, and after receipt by the Company.

**7. Retention:** A Customer or Group Customer, if applicable, shall have the option to choose one of the following methods to apply retention:

Option One (Indexed Based): The value of retention shall be determined by multiplying i) the monthly average price plus applicable interstate pipeline transportation charges as reported in the BTU's Daily Gas Wire Index for each pipeline (NNG: MidContinent Pooling Point) times ii) the Retention percentage times iii) the Deliveries. This value shall be billed monthly. This billing shall represent compensation for Lost and Unaccounted for Gas. The Retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system is 1.38% and will be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. Retention amounts collected under this option will be credited to expense in PGA true-up filings. If the Customer, or Group Customer, does not select one of the options presented in this retention section, retention shall be calculated as stated in this paragraph.

Option Two (Inkind): The Customer, or Group Customer, if applicable, upon written request, may deliver retention quantities inkind. The request shall include the Customer's account number and the meter number of which inkind retention is being requested and shall be delivered to the Company's representative. Upon the Company's acknowledgment of the receipt of the request, the Customer shall be allowed to deliver retention volumes inkind. The Customer shall have the option to have the quantity of transportation gas received from the transporting pipeline reduced, upon delivery to the Customer, by a fixed percentage of 1.38% (to be adjusted as set forth above), which shall represent compensation for Company-Used Gas and Lost and Unaccounted For Gas. Where fuel reimbursement is inkind, the standard fuel calculation mechanism, as this is related to the nominating process, should be  $(1 - (\text{fuel} \% / 100))$  multiplied by receipt quantity - delivery quantity.

Date Filed: August 28, 2001

Effective Date: October 1, 2001

Michael J. Hanson  
Issued By: **President & CEO**

**NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE**

Exhibit A

Gas Balancing Statement  
 Twelve Months Ended July 31, 2001

Description	South Dakota MMBtu					
	10 Mos. Ended 10/31/00	2 Mos. Ended 12/31/00	Year Ended 12/31/00	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/01	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/00	12 Mos. Ended 7/30/01
<b>Gas Sources</b>						
Purchases	3,737,885	2,153,920	5,891,805	3,355,679	3,189,337	6,058,147
Transportation Receipts	3,315,896	842,345	4,158,241	2,719,691	2,496,354	4,381,578
Propane Peaking	0	3,510	3,510	0	0	3,510
<b>Total Sources</b>	<u>7,053,781</u>	<u>2,999,775</u>	<u>10,053,556</u>	<u>6,075,370</u>	<u>5,685,691</u>	<u>10,443,235</u>
<b>Gas Uses</b>						
Sales	3,898,113	1,339,522	5,237,635	4,252,806	3,505,719	5,984,722
Transportation Deliveries	3,266,821	826,677	4,093,498	2,669,105	2,459,408	4,303,195
Company Use	7,532	2,355	9,887	9,096	7,261	11,722
<b>Total Uses</b>	<u>7,172,466</u>	<u>2,168,554</u>	<u>9,341,020</u>	<u>6,931,007</u>	<u>5,972,388</u>	<u>10,299,639</u>
<b>Lost &amp; Unaccounted For</b>	<u>(118,685)</u>	<u>831,221</u>	<u>712,536</u>	<u>(855,637)</u>	<u>(286,697)</u>	<u>143,596</u>
<b>L&amp;U Retention Percentage</b>	<u>1.48%</u>	<u>1.86%</u>		<u>1.86%</u>	<u>1.48%</u>	<u>1.38%</u>

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

**WEEKLY FILINGS**

For the Period of August 23, 2001 through August 29, 2001

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

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS**

**CN01-001** In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Betty Best on behalf of Best Business Products,  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against MidAmerican Energy Company Regarding the  
Unauthorized Use of Personal Property.

The Complainant states that MidAmerican Energy provides service to her building and to the business adjacent to hers. MidAmerican has attached meters and shutoffs to Complainant's building for both her business and for the business adjacent to hers. Complainant has requested that MidAmerican remove the meters and shutoffs that are not directly benefiting Complainant's property. Complainant requests that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission intervene in this matter in requiring MidAmerican to remove the meters and shutoffs at its own expense or require MidAmerican to produce documentation from the Complainant authorizing it to place the meters and shutoffs on her property.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/23/01  
Intervention Deadline: N/A

**NATURAL GAS**

**NG01-009** In the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Public Service for Approval of Tariff  
Revisions.

Application by NorthWestern Public Service for approval of tariff revisions updating the fuel retention percentage found in the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. This annual adjustment is proposed to be effective October 1, 2001.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson  
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier  
Date Docketed: 08/29/01  
Intervention Deadline: 09/17/01

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**TC01-141** In the Matter of the Filing by Qwest Corporation for Approval of Revisions to its Exchange  
and Network Services Tariff.

On August 23, 2001, Qwest Corporation filed revisions to its Exchange and Network Services Tariff for approval. The purpose of the revisions is to 1) introduce a 1-year Rate Stability Plan (RSP) option for Advanced Digital Switched Services (DSS) arrangements, 2) reduce the non-recurring charge when a DSS facility is provisioned on a DS3, and 3) introduce a Rollover and Signaling Design Change Charge for DSS and UAS. Qwest is also asking for a proposed effective date of September 23, 2001.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney  
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier  
Date Docketed: 08/23/01  
Intervention Deadline: 09/07/01

), please contact  
: 605-773-3809

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**TC01-142** In the Matter of the Request of Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa d/b/a Hickory Tech Corporation for Certification Regarding its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

The purpose of this filing is to provide information constituting HickoryTech's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that HickoryTech will use all federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. Section 254.

Staff Analyst: Harlan Best  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/27/01  
Intervention Deadline: 09/07/01

**TC01-143** In the Matter of the Application of Sonix4U, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Interexchange Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

Application by Sonix4U, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to provide resold, non-facilities based, interexchange telecommunications service in South Dakota.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson  
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier  
Date Docketed: 08/29/01  
Intervention Deadline: 09/14/01

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF  
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE ) REVISIONS  
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF )  
REVISIONS ) NG01-009

On August 29, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Public Service Company (NWPS) for approval of revisions to its 5th Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NWPS' filed Natural Gas Tariff. According to the filing "This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for NWPS' South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by NWPS for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2001 is 1.38%. This is a decrease of 0.48% from the currently effective retention percentage of 1.86%."

The proposed revised tariff is Section No. 5, 6th Revised Sheet No. 6.2. Cancelling 5th Revised Sheet No. 6.2.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2001, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. The Commission further finds that the filing is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the above mentioned proposed tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2001.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001

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>Belaine Kalbo</u>
Date:	<u>9/28/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner