

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED) | <u>AMENDED ORDER FOR</u> |
| BY B. J. PEASE, ET AL., SIMILARLY) | AND NOTICE OF HEARING |
| SITUATED CONSUMERS, ABERDEEN, SOUTH) | |
| DAKOTA, AGAINST NORTHWESTERN) | CE00-001 |
| PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY REGARDING) | |
| MULTIPLE BILLING ISSUES) | |

On April 24, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by B. J. Pease, Aberdeen, South Dakota, against NorthWestern Public Service Company (NWPS). Complainant requested the Commission issue an order restraining NWPS from disconnecting her electrical service in addition to other remedies, including requests for damages and fines.

On April 25, 2000, the complaint was faxed to NWPS. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:09, NWPS was notified that it must satisfy the complaint or file an answer in writing with the Commission by May 16, 2000.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 49-34A-2, 49-34A-2.1, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-26, and 49-34A-27.

A hearing shall be held on ~~May 18~~June 27, 2000, beginning at 1:30 o'clock P.M., in Room ~~413~~LCR1 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. All persons testifying will be subject to cross-examination by the parties.

The issue at the hearing is whether NWPS committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission and, if so, what relief would be appropriate.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing, the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of the hearing, the Commission shall determine whether NWPS committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice, or omission and, if so, order any appropriate relief. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issue of whether NWPS committed an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission and, if so, what relief would be appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of May, 2000.

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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>Delaine Kalbo</u> |
| Date: | <u>5/17/00</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