

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION)
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
ELECTRIC RATES)
)
)
)**

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT
MOTION FOR APPROVAL
OF AMENDMENT TO
REVISED SETTLEMENT
STIPULATION**

EL14-106

On December 19, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$26.5 million annually or approximately 20.24% based on its test year ending September 30, 2014.

On December 24, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of February 6, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On February 6, 2015, Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc., Trail King industries, Inc., and Redfield Energy, LLC (collectively, the Industrial Intervenors) and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Wal-Mart) filed Petitions to Intervene. On January 8, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Assessing a Filing Fee and Suspending the Operation of Proposed Rates. On March 3, 2015, the Commission granted intervention to the Industrial Intervenors and Wal-Mart.

On October 16, 2015, a Revised Settlement Stipulation, Joint Motion for Approval of Revised Settlement Stipulation, and Staff Memorandum were filed. On November 4, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Revised Settlement Stipulation and Order Approving Interim Refund Plan. On September 10, 2018, an Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically, 1-26-20, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-21, and 49-34A-22 and ARSD 20:10:01:19.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 18, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of the Amendment to the Revised Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation is granted. The Amendment to Revised Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of September 2018.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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, electronically or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>09/26/18</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner