

**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 REVISIONS)	GE98-001
TO ITS GAS AND ELECTRIC TARIFFS)	

On February 17, 1998, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northwestern Public Service Company (NWPS) requesting approval of changes in its tariff sheets for both the Gas and Electric Tariff Section. The application stated: "NWPS has had purchased gas, fuel, and tax adjustment clauses as part of its tariffs for many years. NWPS proposes to combine these into an adjustment clause which aligns NWPS' clause with all of the provisions of SDCL 49-34A-25. In addition, the proposed tariffs will help NWPS to accommodate expected changes within the gas and electric industries related to unbundling of services, and any changes in the tax treatment of utility property or sales transactions. NWPS does not anticipate any financial impact from these proposed tariff changes as all adjustments represent a one-for-one recovery of applicable qualifying costs." NWPS filed its proposed Gas and Electric tariff sheets.

Commission Staff requested further data from NWPS on March 18, 1998, which NWPS responded to on March 24, 1998. At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 26, 1998, the Commission unanimously voted to keep the ad valorem tax clauses separate from the fuel adjustment clause and the purchased gas adjustment. The Commission also voted to approve the change wherein NWPS shall file a refund plan for Commission review and approval when NWPS receives any refund from a pipeline transporter of charges paid and applicable to natural gas purchased for resale that exceeds \$500,000. Approval of tariffs was deferred at that time.

On June 17, 1998, NWPS refiled the following tariff sheets for approval pursuant to the Commission's decisions rendered March 26, 1998.

Electric Tariff

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Section No. 1: | 14th Revised Sheet No. 1
4th Revised Sheet No. 2 |
| Section No. 3: | 11th Revised Sheet No. 1
6th Revised Sheet No. 2
9th Revised Sheet No. 3
7th Revised Sheet No. 4
13th Revised Sheet No. 5
2nd Revised Sheet No. 5.1
10th Revised Sheet No. 6
3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.1 |

8th Revised Sheet No. 7
1st Revised Sheet No. 7.1
5th Revised Sheet No. 8
Original Sheet No. 8.1
13th Revised Sheet No. 9
8th Revised Sheet No. 10
8th Revised Sheet No. 11
Original Sheet No. 11.1
9th Revised Sheet No. 12
11th Revised Sheet No. 14
10th Revised Sheet No. 15
5th Revised Sheet No. 18
9th Revised Sheet No. 23
8th Revised Sheet No. 25
1st Revised Sheet No. 25.1
9th Revised Sheet No. 28
9th Revised Sheet No. 33
1st Revised Sheet No. 33.1
220th Revised Sheet No. 33a
Original Sheet No. 33b

Section No. 5: 6th Revised Sheet No. 4

Section No. 6: 2nd Revised Sheet No. 13.1

Gas Tariff

Section No. 1: 27th Revised Sheet No. 1

Section No. 3: 16th Revised Sheet No. 1
2nd Revised Sheet No. 2
7th Revised Sheet No. 3.1
3rd Revised Sheet No. 3.2
3rd Revised Sheet No. 3.3
6th Revised Sheet No. 4.1
7th Revised Sheet No. 6.1
4th Revised Sheet No. 6.2
1st Revised Sheet No. 6.10
7th Revised Sheet No. 9
Original Sheet No. 9.1
143rd Revised Sheet No. 9a
40th Revised Sheet No. 9b

At its duly noticed meeting of June 30, 1998, the Commission discussed final approval of the application. Commission Staff recommended approval of the tariff revisions.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, and 49-34A-25. The Commission finds the tariff changes are just and reasonable and approved the revised tariffs. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED that NWPS' aforementioned tariffs are approved and shall be effective for service on and after August 1, 1998; and is further

ORDERED that the ad valorem tax be kept separate from the fuel adjustment clause and the purchased gas adjustment; and it is further

ORDERED that NWPS shall file a refund plan for Commission review and approval when NWPS receives any refund from a pipeline transporter of charges paid and applicable to natural gas purchased for resale that exceeds \$500,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of July, 1998.

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><i>Delaine Krebs</i></u>
Date:	<u>7/10/98</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