

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ) ORDER APPROVING  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A ) REFUND PLAN  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )  
OF A REFUND PLAN ) NG05-011

On August 30, 2005, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) for approval of a refund plan. NWE is requesting Commission approval of a refund plan for a \$958,629.26 refund received from Northern Natural Gas Company. NWE proposes to credit the Company's Adjustment Clause demand true-up in the sum of \$879,025.41 and the Company's Adjustment Clause commodity true-up in the sum of \$79,603.85. The filing states that by using these Adjustment Clause true-up mechanisms, the refund dollars will be returned to customers, with interest payable by the Company, over the next 12-month period through the normal purchased gas adjustment monthly filings process.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 1, 2005, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval with the condition that interest be added to the refund amount from the time the refund was received by NorthWestern as described in the informational supplement entered into the docket on October 25, 2005.

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 with the condition recommended by Commission Staff. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the above mentioned proposed refund plan is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after November 1, 2005, with the condition that interest be added to the refund amount from the time the refund was received by NorthWestern as described in the informational supplement entered into the docket on October 25, 2005.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2005.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Helaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>11/7/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner