BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS RATES	)))))))	**ORDER OF ASSESSMENT OF FILING FEE; SUSPENSION OF IMPOSITION OF TARIFF** **NG07-013**

On June 1, 2007, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its service territory by $3,682,377 annually or approximately 5.5% based on NWE's 2006 test year. The company states the proposed increase for a residential customer would be $7.15 per month based on usage of 150 therms. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 42,286 customers in NWE's service territory.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 26, 2007, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, NWE shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of $100,000. Further, an intervention deadline of July 20, 2007, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by NWE for 90 days beyond July 1, 2007. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NWE shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the executive director, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the executive director, not to exceed the statutory limit; and it is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 90 days beyond July 1, 2007, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14; and it is further

ORDERED, that the deadline for filing petitions to intervene in this case is July 20, 2007.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of July, 2007.

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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 7/5/07

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner