

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER EXTENDING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A)	SUSPENSION OF
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY)	IMPOSITION OF TARIFF
TO INCREASE RATES FOR NATURAL GAS)	
SERVICE)	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. On June 26, 2007, the Commission suspended the proposed schedule of rates for 90 days beyond July 1, 2007. On September 25, 2007, Commission Staff recommended that the suspension of the tariff be further extended for 60 days beyond September 29, 2007.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-34A-2, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.1, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-16, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-20, 49-34A-21, 49-34A-22, and 49-34A-23.

At its September 25, 2007, meeting, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the extension sought by Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be further suspended for 60 days beyond September 29, 2007, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

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

<p>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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u>Alaine Kolbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>10/2/07</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner