

**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)	TARIFF REVISIONS
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)	
APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS)	NG08-012

On November 14, 2008, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed for approval of tariff revisions to its Gas Transportation, Customer Balancing tariff and a change to the Commercial and Industrial Contract Sales Service gas purchasing time frame. For Transportation Service, the company requests the ability to waive imbalance penalties on marketers when their gas position is a benefit to NWE's retail customers. NWE is proposing to revise Contract Sales Service by increasing the number of available offers and the timeframe that gas can be purchased for customers. The company has requested an effective date of January 1, 2009. On December 23, 2008, the Commission received revised tariff sheets from NWE. The revised tariff sheets are as follows:

- Section No. 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 5.3, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 5.3
- Section No. 3, 3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.4, Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 6.4
- Section No. 3, 1st Revised Sheet No. 6.4A, Canceling Original Sheet No. 6.4A
- Section No. 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 6.5, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 6.5
- Section No. 3, 1st Revised Sheet No. 6.5A, Canceling Original Sheet No. 6.5A
- Section No. 3, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 6.6, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 6.6
- Section No. 3, 168th Revised Sheet No. 9b, Canceling 167th Revised Sheet No. 9b

At its regularly scheduled meeting of December 30, 2008, the Commission considered approval of the application. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A. Further, the revisions are just and reasonable and shall be approved, conditioned that imbalance penalties can only be waived when imbalances cause no detriment to other NWE customers. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that NWE's revised tariffs as described above are approved, conditioned that imbalance penalties can only be waived when imbalances cause no detriment to other NWE customers, and shall be effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2009.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of January, 2009.

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, electronically.
By: <u><i>Aldine Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>1/9/09</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner