

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA) NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL) OF ITS 2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) PROPOSED BUDGET))	ORDER APPROVING 2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET NG12-001
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On March 30, 2012, NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed for Commission approval of its 2012 economic development budget. This filing is made as a result of the settlement in docket NG11-003. The filing includes anticipated expenses for 2012. In 2013, the Commission will review NorthWestern's 2012 actual expenses against the budget and a proposed budget for 2013.

The Commission finds it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, 2012 the Commission considered this matter. The Commission noted the support for various city chamber organizations in the budget. The Commission requested that any portion of said membership dues used by the chamber organization to support lobbying be excluded. The Commission further requested that the donation given to a particular community be specifically allocated to natural gas or electric based on the services provided. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's 2012 Economic Development Budget is approved with the following conditions: that any portion of chamber dues used to support lobbying be excluded and that community donations be specifically allocated to natural gas or electric based on the services provided in the community.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of April, 2012.

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>Joy King</u>
Date: <u>April 25, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner