

**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 2013 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) PROPOSED BUDGET AND 2012 ECONOMIC) DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES)	ORDER APPROVING 2012 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND 2013 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET
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NG13-002

On March 29, 2013, NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its 2012 Economic Development Report and proposed 2013 Economic Development Budget detailing NorthWestern's actual expenses for the Commission's review and approval.

On April 4, 2013, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 19, 2013, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On April 16, 2013, NorthWestern filed its response to Commission Staff's Data Request.

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

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2013, the Commission reviewed NorthWestern's request. Commission Staff recommended approval of NorthWestern's 2012 Economic Development Report and the 2013 Economic Development Budget. Finding NorthWestern's 2012 Economic Development Report and the 2013 Economic Development Budget to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's 2012 Economic Development Report and 2013 Economic Development Budget are approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of April, 2013.

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>Joy King</i></u>
Date: <u>4-26-13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner