

**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 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT) PROPOSED BUDGET AND 2015 ECONOMIC) DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES))	ORDER APPROVING 2015 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES AND 2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET NG16-004
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On March 29, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of its proposed 2016 Economic Development Budget and 2015 Economic Development Expenses in accordance with the Settlement Stipulation in NG11-003.

On March 31, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 15, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On April 13, 2016, NorthWestern responded to Commission staff's data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. After review of the filing, the Commission found the activities and contributions set forth therein to be just and reasonable and voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's 2015 Economic Development Expenses and proposed 2016 Economic Development Budget. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's 2015 Economic Development Expenses and proposed 2016 Economic Development Budget are approved as filed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of May, 2016.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Rolayne Wiest</u>
Date: <u>5-2-16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner