

**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 REFUND PLAN)
REGARDING ITS RECOVERY OF)
MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE)
REMEDICATION COSTS)

**ORDER APPROVING
REFUND PLAN**

NG17-015

On October 31, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Energy Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval of its updated refund plan regarding its recovery of the Aberdeen, South Dakota, manufactured gas plant (MGP) site remediation costs. The purpose of this filing is to update the refund mechanism established in NG16-010 where NorthWestern credited customers an over-collection related to MGP remediation allowed in docket NG11-003. Through the first 10 months of the tracker established in NG16-010, NorthWestern has refunded approximately \$4.0 million with a balance of approximately \$2.1 million remaining in the tracker to be refunded. NorthWestern notes that actual remediation costs have come in lower than the amount recovered through the tracker. NorthWestern proposes to continue the refund plan for an additional 12 months at lower credit rates than are currently in effect. The Company proposes a December 1, 2017, effective date for the new credit rates.

On November 2, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 17, 2017, to interested persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, including 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 21, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended that the Commission approve NorthWestern's refund plan effective December 1, 2017. The Commission voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's refund plan effective December 1, 2017. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's refund plan is approved and effective December 1, 2017.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of November, 2017.

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>Karen E. Bremer</u>
Date:	<u>11/27/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner