

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER APPROVING</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )</b>	<b>REFUND PLAN</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR )</b>	
<b>APPROVAL OF ITS REFUND PLAN )</b>	<b>NG19-009</b>
<b>REGARDING ITS RECOVERY OF )</b>	
<b>MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE )</b>	
<b>REMEDATION COSTS )</b>	

On October 22, 2019, the Commission received a petition by NorthWestern Energy Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval of its refund plan regarding its recovery of the manufactured gas plant (MGP) site remediation costs. The purpose of this filing is to update the refund mechanism established in NG16-010 whereby NorthWestern credited customers an over-collection related to MGP remediation allowed in docket NG11-003. Through the tracker established in NG16-010, NG17-015, and the first 10 months of the tracker established in NG18-015, NorthWestern has refunded approximately \$7.7 million to customers with a balance of approximately \$1.2 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 higher credit rates than are currently in effect. NorthWestern proposes a December 1, 2019, effective date for the new credit rates.

On October 24, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 8, 2019, 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, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 12, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of NorthWestern's refund plan with an effective date of December 1, 2019. The Commission voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's refund plan effective December 1, 2019. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's refund plan is hereby approved and effective December 1, 2019.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>11/13/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner