

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)	ORDER CANCELING HEARING
OF NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION)	
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)	EL14-106
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)	
ELECTRIC RATES)	

On December 19, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Service in South Dakota (Application) filed by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval to increase rates for electric service customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$26.5 million annually or approximately 20.24% based on NorthWestern's test year ending September 30, 2014. NorthWestern states a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of \$16.76 per month. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 62,100 customers in NorthWestern's South Dakota service territory. NorthWestern proposed an effective date of March 1, 2015.

On December 24, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of February 6, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. On February 6, 2015, Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc., Trail King industries, Inc., and Redfield Energy, LLC (collectively, the Industrial Intervenors) and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Wal-Mart) filed Petitions to Intervene. On January 8, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Assessing a Filing Fee and Suspending the Operation of Proposed Rates. On March 3, 2015, the Commission granted intervention to Industrial Intervenors and Wal-Mart.

On March 20, 2015, the Commission received a petition from twenty-seven (27) NorthWestern customers requesting to suspend the proposed rate increase requested by NorthWestern and to hold a public hearing to determine if such a rate should be allowed or decreased. The Commission voted unanimously to hold a public hearing in Yankton, South Dakota. On May 14, 2015, the public hearing was held as ordered.

On June 26, 2015, the Commission issued a scheduling order that the parties had agreed on as follows:

Staff and Intervenors' testimony filed and served	September 14, 2015
All parties' rebuttal testimony filed and served	October 5, 2015
All parties' exhibit lists and witness lists filed and served	October 12, 2015
Evidentiary hearing	October 27-30, 2015

On September 2, 2015, NorthWestern filed a letter proposing to suspend the above-referenced procedural schedule to allow NorthWestern and the Intervenors an opportunity to continue settlement discussions. Per NorthWestern's letter, Commission Staff concurred in the

suspension. On September 9, 2015, Industrial Intervenors and Wal-Mart each filed a Consent to Change in Procedural Schedule. The proposed schedule is as follows:

Staff and Intervenors' testimony filed and served	September 28, 2015
All parties' rebuttal testimony filed and served	October 19, 2015
All parties' exhibit lists and witness lists filed and served	October 23, 2015
Evidentiary hearing	October 27-30, 2015

By order dated September 10, 2015, the procedural schedule was amended as agreed to by the parties. On September 23, 2015, the Industrial Intervenors filed a letter stating that all parties "agreed that the deadline for staff and intervenors' testimony to be filed and served shall be extended to October 2, 2015." On September 24, 2015, NorthWestern and Commission Staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. On September 25, 2015, Walmart filed a letter stating it agreed to the proposed changes set forth in the letter filed by the Industrial Intervenors on September 23, 2015. On September 30, 2015, the Industrial Intervenors filed a letter stating that they had reached an agreement in principle with NorthWestern and Commission Staff regarding this docket. On October 1, 2015, Wal-Mart filed a letter stating that Wal-Mart had also reached an agreement in principle with NorthWestern and Commission Staff. On October 16, 2015, NorthWestern, Commission Staff, the Industrial Intervenors, and Wal-Mart filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Revised Settlement Stipulation and Commission Staff filed a Memorandum Supporting Revised Settlement Stipulation.

Based on the filing of the Revised Settlement Stipulation, the Commission cancels the evidentiary hearing that was scheduled for October 27-30, 2015. The Commission will consider the Revised Settlement Stipulation at its October 29, 2015, meeting.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the hearing scheduled October 27-30, 2015, is canceled.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of October, 2015.

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: Rolayne West

Date: 10-23-15

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner