

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER SUSPENDING 2017</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )</b>	<b>DEMAND SIDE</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR )</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF 2017 SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	
<b>DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN )</b>	<b>GE16-005</b>

On November 18, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of its Demand Side Management (DSM) Plan for 2017. Specifically, NorthWestern requested approval of its proposed modifications to the initial DSM Plan approved in Docket GE12-001. Further, NorthWestern requested approval of the revised gas and electric Energy Efficiency Adjustment rates and tariff sheets that account for a true-up of tracker account balances and the 2017 DSM Plan proposed budgets with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

On November 23, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 9, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were received. On December 13, 2016, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a letter requesting suspension of the 2017 DSM Plan until March 1, 2017, and allowing the current Energy Efficiency Adjustment rates to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Commission. On December 15, 2016, NorthWestern filed its responses to Staff's Data Request 1.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.2, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-13, and 49-34A-14.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 20, 2016, the Commission considered Staff's request to suspend NorthWestern's 2017 DSM Plan. Staff requested suspension of NorthWestern's 2017 DSM Plan until March 1, 2017, in order to allow for additional time to review the proposed plan and work with NorthWestern to make adjustments to the plan. NorthWestern did not object to Staff's request. After discussing the matter, the Commission found Staff's request was justified and unanimously voted to suspend NorthWestern's 2017 DSM Plan until March 1, 2017, and allow the current Energy Efficiency Adjustment rates to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Commission. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's 2017 DSM Plan is suspended until March 1, 2017. It is further

ORDERED, that the current Energy Efficiency Adjustment rates shall remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of December, 2016.

<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. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>12/21/2016</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner