

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
REQUESTING APPROVAL OF A NEW)
CUSTOMER BILLING FORMAT AND)
DEVIATION REQUEST)**

**ORDER APPROVING NEW
BILL FORMAT AND
DEVIATION REQUEST**

EL95-028

On September 26, 1995, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for approval of a new customer bill format, including text changes and a deviation request, to be incorporated in NSP's South Dakota electric rate book.

NSP proposes to implement a new bill format with the effective date of the changes to correspond with the implementation of NSP's new Customer Billing System (CSS) set for February 1996. NSP proposes to send a letter in January 1996 to the Commission to finalize the proposed effective date and the subsequent publication of the final section 6 tariff sheets. The purpose of the new bill format is to meet customer requests for bills that are easier to read and more understandable. The deviation request will permit NSP the on-going authority to delete delinquency dates and late payment penalties from automatic bank withdrawal pay plan statements.

The changed format will be reflected in the following South Dakota Electric tariffs SDPUC No.1:

Section No: 6, 2nd Revised Sheet Nos: 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8

At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 2, 1995, the Commission reviewed NSP's filing. Commission Staff had earlier requested NSP to add the following language to its new bill: "For South Dakota customers ONLY call 1-800-332-1782." NSP has agreed to this when they order new bill stock. Commission Staff therefore recommended approval of the bill format as well as the request for a deviation from ARSD 20:10:17:03(5), (6), and (7).

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11. The Commission concludes that the proposed tariff revisions as amended

are fair and reasonable and should be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that NSP's above mentioned tariffs as amended and request for deviation from ARSD 20:10:17:03 (5), (6), and (7) are hereby approved and shall have an effective date coincidental with implementation of the new CSS computer system presently scheduled to be on-line in February 1996.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of November, 1995.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>11-21-95</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

[Signature]
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

[Signature]
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner