

BEFORE THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
APPLICATION OF)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION)
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY)
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE)
ITS ELECTRIC RATES)

Docket No. EL14-106

**WAL-MART STORES, INC.
PETITION TO INTERVENE**

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (“Wal-Mart”) by and through its undersigned counsel and pursuant to South Dakota Codified Law (“SDCL”) § 49-34A-13.1 and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota (“A.R.S.D.”) 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03 hereby petitions the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for intervention in the above captioned proceeding filed by Northwestern Corporation d/b/a Northwestern Energy (“Northwestern”). In support thereof, Wal-Mart states as follows:

1. A.R.S.D. 20:10:01:15.03 provides that “a petition to intervene shall set out clearly and concisely the facts supporting the petitioner’s alleged interest in the proceeding and to the extent known, the position of the petitioner in the proceeding.”

2. On December 19, 2014, Northwestern filed an Application in the above-titled Docket, to make changes in its charges for electric services provided to its South Dakota customers.

3. Wal-Mart is a large retailer with offices located at 2001 Southeast 10th St., Bentonville, AR 72716-5530. Wal-Mart has fifteen facilities and over 4,700 associates in South Dakota. Four of these facilities take electric service from Northwestern.

4. Wal-Mart is an electric customer of Northwestern and will be directly and substantially affected by the electric rates charged by Northwestern to Walmart facilities. As a large commercial Northwestern customer who is heavily invested in energy efficiency and demand-side management technology, Wal-Mart has direct financial interests in all cost of service, rate design, and policy determinations to be considered and determined by the Commission in these proceedings.

5. Wal-Mart's interest in the outcome of these proceedings will not be adequately represented by any other party, nor will Wal-Mart's participation delay this proceeding.

6. Wal-Mart timely requests intervention in this proceeding.

7. A copy of this petition to intervene in this proceeding has been served all on parties to this proceeding. Copies of all notices, orders or pleadings in this should be served on:

Talbot J. Wiczorek
Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore, LLP
506 Sixth Street
P.O. Box 8045
Rapid City, SD 57709
E-mail: tjw@gpnlaw.com

With copies to:

Steve W. Chriss
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
2001 SE Tenth Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-0550
E-mail: Stephen.Chriss@walmart.com

WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, Wal-Mart requests that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission grant this timely Petition to Intervene and permit Wal-Mart to participate in this proceeding with full rights as a party.

Dated: February 6, 2015.

ATTORNEYS FOR WAL-MART STORES, INC.

By: 

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