

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

IN THE MATTER OF STAFF'S REQUEST)
REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 2021 COLD)
WEATHER EVENT AND ITS IMPACT ON UTILITY)
FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENTS AND)
PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENTS)
)
)
)
)

ORDER APPROVING
MODIFICATION TO
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
COMPANY'S PURCHASED
GAS COST ADJUSTMENT
RATE MITIGATION PLAN

GE21-001

On February 17, 2021, the South Dakota Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Commission staff (Staff) for Temporary Waiver of Fuel Clause Adjustment and Purchased Gas Adjustment Tariff Provisions to Mitigate Rate Impacts due to the February 2021 cold weather event. Staff requested the Commission issue an Order authorizing Staff to work with South Dakota electric and natural gas investor-owned utilities to make the necessary modifications to the Fuel Clause Adjustment and/or Purchased Gas Adjustment tariffs to mitigate the rate impact associated with the natural gas costs from the February 2021 cold weather event. Staff also requested the Commission provide a temporary waiver of the tariff language that might be contradictory to the modifications implemented regarding this specific weather event.

On February 18, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 22, 2021, to interested entities and persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. Parties to the docket include Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (Black Hills); MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican); Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota); NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern); Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail); and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) (jointly, Investor-Owned Utilities).

On December 9, 2021, MidAmerican filed a letter requesting to modify its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment rate mitigation plan to extend the recovery period through April 2022. MidAmerican was not able to collect expected costs due to the increasing market price of natural gas coupled with lower than forecasted volumes due to warmer weather. The requested modification will allow MidAmerican to recover the remaining gas costs without causing additional undue burden on its customers. MidAmerican's letter specified its plans to front-load the costs into the earlier months of the extended period and any remaining balance after April 2022 would be rolled into the next reconciliation. At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 21, 2021, the Commission considered the matter and deferred the docket, requesting additional information. On December 30, 2021, MidAmerican filed additional information.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-25 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 4, 2022, the Commission considered this matter. Staff recommended approval of MidAmerican's requested modification to its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment rate mitigation plan. Finding the modification to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve MidAmerican's requested modification to its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment rate mitigation plan to extend the recovery period through April 2022. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MidAmerican Energy Company's requested modification to its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment rate mitigation plan to extend the recovery period through April 2022 is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of January 2022.

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: Karen E. Cremer

Date: 01/06/2022

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner