



March 2, 2021

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD, 57501

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed is the 417th Revised Sheet No. 9a and 316th Revised Sheet No. 9b of NorthWestern's Gas Tariff. Sheet Nos. 9a and 9b reflect changes in the costs of purchased gas and ad valorem taxes paid to be effective March 2, 2021.

The effect of Sheet Nos 9a and 9b for a typical space heating customer using 150 therms per month would be an increase in the cost from \$84.29 to \$133.53, about 58.4%.

Included in this month's rate calculation are the increased costs from the cold weather event experienced in mid-February. The extreme cold weather resulted in unprecedented market prices. As approved in docket GE21-001, NorthWestern has made two changes to this filing. First, the costs from the cold weather event are included in the March rate calculation as opposed to delaying their inclusion until the April calculation. Second, a share of the costs has been allocated to rate 84 and rate 86 index customers. The estimated impact on rates to all residential and commercial customers impacted by this event is an increase of approximately 32 cents per therm. This increase will be tracked and adjusted through the next 12 months.

Application of these new rates will begin with meter readings on and after March 2, 2021.

Should you have any questions regarding the above changes, please advise.

Sincerely,

Jeff J. Decker
Regulatory Specialist
jeff.decker@northwestern.com
○ 605-353-8315