



NG00-007

600 Market Street W.  
Huron, SD 57350-1500  
Telephone: 605-352-8411  
Facsimile: 605-353-7519  
Internet: www.northwestern.com

**NorthWestern**  
PUBLIC SERVICE

August 24, 2000

Mr. William Bullard  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Gas Transportation Tariff Change - Fuel Retention Percentage

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff. This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31.

The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2000 is 1.86%. This is an increase of 0.38% from the currently effective retention percentage of 1.48%. The retention percentages effective October 1, 1997 and 1998 were 2.17% and 0.39%, respectively. Exhibit A, attached, shows the computation of the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the twelve month period ending July 1, 2000.

NorthWestern asks that the proposed retention percentage be approved to be effective October 1, 2000.

Sincerely,

*Jeff J. Decker*

Jeff J. Decker

enclosure

**RECEIVED**

AUG 25 2000

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

## SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
 HURON  
 SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5  
 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2  
 Canceling 4<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2

**CLASS OF SERVICE: Gas Transportation Tariffs**  
**RATE DESIGNATION: General Terms and Conditions**

(Con't)

**6. Liability:**

- (a) General - Gas shall be and shall remain the property of the Customer while being transported and delivered by the Company. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss arising from or out of Gas Transportation Service while in the Company's system or for any other cause, except for gross or willful negligence of the Company's own employees. The Company reserves the right to commingle gas of the Customer with other gas supplies including propane and liquefied natural gas.
- (b) Insurance - The Customer shall be responsible for determining the extent of and maintaining all insurance it deems necessary to protect its property interest in such gas before, during, and after receipt by the Company.

**7. Retention:** A Customer or Group Customer, if applicable, shall have the option to choose one of the following methods to apply retention:

Option One (Indexed Based): The value of retention shall be determined by multiplying i) the monthly average price plus applicable interstate pipeline transportation charges as reported in the BTU's Daily Gas Wire Index for each pipeline (NNG: MidContinent Pooling Point) times ii) the Retention percentage times iii) the Deliveries. This value shall be billed monthly. This billing shall represent compensation for Lost and Unaccounted for Gas. The Retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system is 1.86% and will be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. Retention amounts collected under this option will be credited to expense in PGA true-up filings. If the Customer, or Group Customer, does not select one of the options presented in this retention section, retention shall be calculated as stated in this paragraph.

Option Two (Inkind): The Customer, or Group Customer, if applicable, upon written request, may deliver retention quantities inkind. The request shall include the Customer's account number and the meter number of which inkind retention is being requested and shall be delivered to the Company's representative. Upon the Company's acknowledgment of the receipt of the request, the Customer shall be allowed to deliver retention volumes inkind. The Customer shall have the option to have the quantity of transportation gas received from the transporting pipeline reduced, upon delivery to the Customer, by a fixed percentage of 1.86% (to be adjusted as set forth above), which shall represent compensation for Company-Used Gas and Lost and Unaccounted For Gas. Where fuel reimbursement is inkind, the standard fuel calculation mechanism, as this is related to the nominating process, should be  $(1 - (\text{fuel \%}/100))$  multiplied by receipt quantity = delivery quantity.

Date Filed: August 24, 2000

Effective Date: October 1, 2000

Michael J. Hanson  
 Issued By: President & CEO

**NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE**

Gas Balancing Statement

Twelve Months Ended July 31, 2000

**Exhibit A**

| Description                         | MMBtu                   |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | 9 Mos. Ended<br>9/30/99 | 3 Mos. Ended<br>12/31/99 | Year Ended<br>12/31/99 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/99 | 12 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 |
| <b>Gas Sources</b>                  |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Purchases                           | 3,470,634 *             | 1,723,996                | 5,194,630              | 3,023,131               | 3,210,415               | 5,007,346                |
| Transportation Receipts             | 2,525,501               | 945,389                  | 3,470,890              | 2,496,446               | 2,076,291               | 3,891,045                |
| Propane Peaking                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 0                       | 0                       | 0                        |
| <b>Total Sources</b>                | <u>5,996,135</u>        | <u>2,669,385</u>         | <u>8,665,520</u>       | <u>5,519,577</u>        | <u>5,286,706</u>        | <u>8,898,391</u>         |
| <b>Gas Uses</b>                     |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Sales                               | 3,959,547 *             | 1,196,540                | 5,156,087              | 3,505,719               | 3,775,627               | 4,886,179                |
| Transportation Deliveries           | 2,515,677 *             | 931,363                  | 3,447,040              | 2,459,408               | 2,068,214               | 3,838,234                |
| Company Use                         | 6,679 *                 | 716                      | 7,395                  | 7,261                   | 6,568                   | 8,088                    |
| <b>Total Uses</b>                   | <u>6,481,903</u>        | <u>2,128,619</u>         | <u>8,610,522</u>       | <u>5,972,388</u>        | <u>5,850,409</u>        | <u>8,732,501</u>         |
| <b>Lost &amp; Unaccounted For</b>   | <u>(485,768)</u>        | <u>540,766</u>           | <u>54,998</u>          | <u>(452,811)</u>        | <u>(563,703)</u>        | <u>165,890</u>           |
| <b>L&amp;U Retention Percentage</b> | <u>0.39%</u>            | <u>1.48%</u>             |                        | <u>1.48%</u>            | <u>0.39%</u>            | <u>1.86%</u>             |

**NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE**

Gas Balancing Statement

Twelve Months Ended July 31, 2000

**Exhibit A**

| Description                         | MMBtu                   |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                     | 9 Mos. Ended<br>9/30/99 | 3 Mos. Ended<br>12/31/99 | Year Ended<br>12/31/99 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/99 | 12 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 |
| <b>Gas Sources</b>                  |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Purchases                           | 3,470,634 *             | 1,723,996                | 5,194,630              | 3,023,131               | 3,210,415               | 5,007,346                |
| Transportation Receipts             | 2,525,501               | 945,389                  | 3,470,890              | 2,496,446               | 2,076,291               | 3,891,045                |
| Propane Peaking                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 0                       | 0                       | 0                        |
| <b>Total Sources</b>                | <u>5,996,135</u>        | <u>2,669,385</u>         | <u>8,665,520</u>       | <u>5,519,577</u>        | <u>5,286,706</u>        | <u>8,898,391</u>         |
| <b>Gas Uses</b>                     |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Sales                               | 3,959,547 *             | 1,196,540                | 5,156,087              | 3,505,719               | 3,775,627               | 4,886,179                |
| Transportation Deliveries           | 2,515,677 *             | 931,363                  | 3,447,040              | 2,459,408               | 2,068,214               | 3,838,234                |
| Company Use                         | 6,679 *                 | 716                      | 7,395                  | 7,261                   | 6,568                   | 8,088                    |
| <b>Total Uses</b>                   | <u>6,481,903</u>        | <u>2,128,619</u>         | <u>8,610,522</u>       | <u>5,972,388</u>        | <u>5,850,409</u>        | <u>8,732,501</u>         |
| <b>Lost &amp; Unaccounted For</b>   | <u>(485,768)</u>        | <u>540,766</u>           | <u>54,998</u>          | <u>(452,811)</u>        | <u>(563,703)</u>        | <u>165,890</u>           |
| <b>L&amp;U Retention Percentage</b> | <u>0.39%</u>            | <u>1.48%</u>             |                        | <u>1.48%</u>            | <u>0.39%</u>            | <u>1.86%</u>             |

**WEEKLY FILINGS**

For the Period of August 24, 2000 through August 30, 2000

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact  
DeLaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

**CONSUMER COMPLAINTS**

**CT00-099 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Jim and Georgia Bacon, Custer, South Dakota, against Lightyear Communications, Inc. Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.**

The Complainants claim they did not authorize a switch in their service. The Complainants request "the full dollar amount suitable for this type of case" as relief.

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/29/00  
Intervention Deadline: NA

**CT00-100 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Earl A. Eliason on behalf of Earl's Barber Shop, Philip, South Dakota, against AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc. Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.**

The complainant alleges that his long distance services were switched without his authorization and he has received billings and charges which he disputes. He reports that he has requested a copy of the verification tape and this has not been provided. The complainant requests that if AT&T cannot prove that he agreed to their calling plan he wants the following: 1. A signed statement that he did not agree to this plan and the switch was done without his consent. 2. A refund of \$16.45. 3. A check for \$750.00 for his trouble.

Staff Analyst: Charlene Lund  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/30/00  
Intervention Deadline: NA

**CT00-101 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Terry L. Vellek, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against Qwest Communications, Inc. Regarding a Billing Dispute.**

The Complainant has had continuing billing problems with Qwest over the past two years which include toll charges and Universal Service Fund charges. Qwest has indicated that the calls were dialed directly using 10-10 numbers. The Complainant is seeking \$1000 in relief.

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/30/00  
Intervention Deadline: NA

## NATURAL GAS

### **NG00-007 In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Public Service Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions.**

NorthWestern Public Service has filed to revise its South Dakota Natural Gas Tariff by adjusting its fuel retention percentage. The Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually based upon the actual percentage incurred by the Company in the prior year.

Staff Analyst: Keith Senger  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/25/00  
Intervention Deadline: 09/11/00

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### **TC00-129 In the Matter of the Application of Zone Telecom, Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.**

Zone Telecom, Inc. is seeking a Certificate of Authority to provide facilities-based and resold intrastate interexchange and alternative operator telecommunications services in South Dakota. The applicant intends to provide a variety of competitive telecommunications services including prepaid calling cards, retail and wholesale interLATA private line, retail and wholesale calling cards, retail and wholesale switched interLATA long distance, and operator services.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney  
Date Docketed: 08/24/00  
Intervention Deadline: 09/15/00

### **TC00-130 In the Matter of the Filing by the Local Exchange Carriers Association for Approval to Add Additional Exchanges to Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. and Vivian Telephone Company and for a Few Minor Text Changes.**

On August 29, 2000, the Local Exchange Carriers Association (LECA) filed revised pages of its Tariff No. 1. The purpose of the revisions is to reflect additional exchanges participating in the tariff and a few minor textual changes.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney  
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/29/00  
Intervention Deadline: 09/15/00

**TC00-131 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a First Amendment to an Interconnection Agreement between Brookings Municipal Utilities Telephone Department d.b.a. Swiftel Communications and Qwest Corporation.**

A first amendment to an interconnection agreement between Qwest Corporation and Brookings Municipal Utilities Telephone Department d.b.a. Swiftel Communications has been filed with the Commission for approval. The original agreement was approved by the Commission in Docket TC98-204 and was effective February 18, 1999. The First Amendment will include the Terms and Conditions for Inter Local Calling Area (InterLCA Facility). Any party wishing to comment on the First Amendment may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the amendment no later than September 19, 2000. Parties to the amendment may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/30/00  
Initial Comments Due: 09/19/00

**TC00-132 In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of a Resale Agreement between Qwest Corporation and DPI Teleconnect, L.L.C.**

A Resale Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation and DPI Teleconnect, L.L.C. was filed with the Commission for approval. The agreement is a negotiated agreement setting forth certain arrangements to provide, within the geographical areas where Qwest is the incumbent local exchange carrier, the unbundled network element platform and/or services for resale of local telecommunications services. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than September 19, 2000. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer  
Date Docketed: 08/30/00  
Initial Comments Due: 09/19/00

You may receive this listing and other PUC publications via our website or via internet e-mail.  
You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>



N 400-007

600 Market Street W  
Huron, SD 57350-1500  
Telephone: 605-352-8411  
Facsimile: 605-353-7519  
Internet: www.northwestern.com

September 1, 2000

Mr. Keith Senger  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 East Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Gas Transportation Tariff Change - Fuel Retention Percentage

Dear Mr. Senger:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff. This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31.

The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2000 is 1.86%. This is an increase of 0.38% from the currently effective retention percentage of 1.48%. The retention percentages effective October 1, 1997 and 1998 were 2.17% and 0.39%, respectively. Exhibit A, attached, shows the computation of the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the twelve month period ending July 1, 2000.

NorthWestern asks that the proposed retention percentage be approved to be effective October 1, 2000.

Sincerely,

Jeff J. Decker

enclosure

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 05 2000  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
HURON  
SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5  
Sheet No. 6.2  
Canceling 4<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 6.2  
5<sup>th</sup> Revised

**CLASS OF SERVICE: Gas Transportation Tariffs**  
**RATE DESIGNATION: General Terms and Conditions**

(Con't)

**6. Liability:**

- (a) General - Gas shall be and shall remain the property of the Customer while being transported and delivered by the Company. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss arising from or out of Gas Transportation Service while in the Company's system or for any other cause, except for gross or willful negligence of the Company's own employees. The Company reserves the right to commingle gas of the Customer with other gas supplies including propane and liquefied natural gas.
- (b) Insurance - The Customer shall be responsible for determining the extent of and maintaining all insurance it deems necessary to protect its property interest in such gas before, during, and after receipt by the Company.

**7. Retention:** A Customer or Group Customer, if applicable, shall have the option to choose one of the following methods to apply retention:

Option One (Indexed Based): The value of retention shall be determined by multiplying i) the monthly average price plus applicable interstate pipeline transportation charges as reported in the BTU's Daily Gas Wire Index for each pipeline (NNG: MidContinent Pooling Point) times ii) the Retention percentage times iii) the Deliveries. This value shall be billed monthly. This billing shall represent compensation for Lost and Unaccounted for Gas. The Retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system is 1.86% and will be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. Retention amounts collected under this option will be credited to expense in PGA true-up filings. If the Customer, or Group Customer, does not select one of the options presented in this retention section, retention shall be calculated as stated in this paragraph. (I)

Option Two (Inkind): The Customer, or Group Customer, if applicable, upon written request, may deliver retention quantities inkind. The request shall include the Customer's account number and the meter number of which inkind retention is being requested and shall be delivered to the Company's representative. Upon the Company's acknowledgment of the receipt of the request, the Customer shall be allowed to deliver retention volumes inkind. The Customer shall have the option to have the quantity of transportation gas received from the transporting pipeline reduced, upon delivery to the Customer, by a fixed percentage of 1.86% (to be adjusted as set forth above), which shall represent compensation for Company-Used Gas and Lost and Unaccounted For Gas. (I)  
Where fuel reimbursement is inkind, the standard fuel calculation mechanism, as this is related to the nominating process, should be  $(1 - (\text{fuel \%}/100))$  multiplied by receipt quantity = delivery quantity.

Date Filed: August 24, 2000

Effective Date: October 1, 2000

Michael J. Hanson  
Issued By: President & CEO

**NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**Gas Balancing Statement**  
**Twelve Months Ended July 31, 2000**

**Exhibit A**

| Description               | MMBtu                   |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | 9 Mos. Ended<br>9/30/99 | 3 Mos. Ended<br>12/31/99 | Year Ended<br>12/31/99 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 | 7 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/99 | 12 Mos. Ended<br>7/31/00 |
| Gas Sources               |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Purchases                 | 3,470,634 *             | 1,723,996                | 5,194,630              | 3,023,131               | 3,210,415               | 5,007,346                |
| Transportation Receipts   | 2,525,501               | 945,389                  | 3,470,890              | 2,496,446               | 2,076,291               | 3,891,045                |
| Propane Peaking           | 0                       | 0                        | 0                      | 0                       | 0                       | 0                        |
| <b>Total Sources</b>      | <b>5,996,135</b>        | <b>2,669,385</b>         | <b>8,665,520</b>       | <b>5,519,577</b>        | <b>5,286,706</b>        | <b>8,898,391</b>         |
| Gas Uses                  |                         |                          |                        |                         |                         |                          |
| Sales                     | 3,959,547 *             | 1,196,540                | 5,156,087              | 3,505,719               | 3,775,627               | 4,886,179                |
| Transportation Deliveries | 2,515,677 *             | 931,363                  | 3,447,040              | 2,459,408               | 2,068,214               | 3,838,234                |
| Company Use               | 6,679 *                 | 716                      | 7,395                  | 7,261                   | 6,568                   | 8,088                    |
| <b>Total Uses</b>         | <b>6,481,903</b>        | <b>2,128,619</b>         | <b>8,610,522</b>       | <b>5,972,388</b>        | <b>5,850,409</b>        | <b>8,732,501</b>         |
| Lost & Unaccounted For    | (485,768)               | 540,766                  | 54,998                 | (452,811)               | (563,703)               | 165,890                  |
| L&U Retention Percentage  | 0.39%                   | 1.48%                    |                        | 1.48%                   | 0.39%                   | 1.86%                    |

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF  
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE ) REVISIONS  
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF )  
REVISIONS ) NG00-007

On August 25, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Public Service Company (NWPS) for approval of revisions to its 4th Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NWPS' filed Natural Gas Tariff. According to the filing, "This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for NWPS' South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by NWPS for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 2000 is 1.86%. This is an increase of 0.38% from the currently effective retention percentage of 1.48%."

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2000, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. The Commission further finds that the filing is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED that the above mentioned proposed tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2000.

|  |
|--|
| <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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon. |
| By: <u><i>Delvin Kallio</i></u>  |
| Date: <u>9/20/00</u>   |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL)  |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

*James A. Burg*  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

*Pam Nelson*  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

*Laska Schoenfelder*  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner