

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE NATURAL GAS RATES IN SOUTH DAKOTA. ) JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT STIPULATION NG07-013

NorthWestern Corporation, a Delaware corporation doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities (Commission Staff), collectively referred to as Parties, hereby file the above-referenced Motion and Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties propose that the Commission adopt the Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

- 1. This Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation resolves all of the issues in Docket No. NG07-013.
3. The Settlement Stipulation represents the conclusion of the undersigned parties that it is in the best interests of the Parties and the general public to reach a negotiated settlement of specific issues in this case and that the terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just, fair, and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the Commission to adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation without modification for the purpose of resolving the specific issues for use in determining the revenue requirement of NorthWestern Energy in Docket No. NG07-013.

NorthWestern Energy
BY: Brett Koenecke
Attorney
May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson, LLP
503 S. Pierre Street
PO Box 160
Pierre, SD 57501

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
BY: Karen E. Cremer
Staff Attorney
State Capitol Building
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

DATED: 12/4/07

DATED: 12-04-07