



Gary Hanson, Chair
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Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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November 15, 2011

- TO: ALL PERSONS WHO SIGNED THE PETITION IN DOCKET NG11-003 REQUESTING THE COMMISSION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS**
- RE: COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT STIPULATION (see enclosed Agenda, Natural Gas, Item 1, NG11-003 Application of NorthWestern Corporation, etc.)**
- WHEN: NOVEMBER 22, 2011, AT 2:00 P.M. CST IN ROOM 413, CAPITOL BUILDING, PIERRE, S.D.**

This purpose of this letter is to make you aware that on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. CST, in Room 413 of the Capitol Building in Pierre, the Public Utilities Commission will consider whether to approve a Settlement Stipulation filed jointly by NorthWestern and the Commission's Staff to resolve this case. Any interested persons who wish to attend this meeting will have the opportunity to present their comments to the Commission.

NorthWestern requested an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$4,123,000 which would have resulted in an approximate 7.20 percent increase in rates for natural gas service to its customers in South Dakota. In the Settlement Stipulation, Staff and NorthWestern have agreed to a lesser revenue increase of approximately \$1,846,807 or an approximate 3.30 percent increase over present rates.

If the Commission decides to approve the Settlement Stipulation, these rates agreed to between NorthWestern and Staff will go into effect on December 1, 2011, and will cover all service provided after such date.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and the input you provided to the Commission at the hearing in Scotland on October 17, 2011, and welcome your attendance at the meeting on November 22. The Settlement Stipulation is available on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under: Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Natural Gas Dockets, 2011 Natural Gas Dockets, NG11-003, or may be obtained by calling or writing the Commission.

Sincerely,

John J. Smith, General Counsel
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission