

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF )  
ITS REFUND PLAN REGARDING ITS RECOVERY )  
OF MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE )  
REMEDATION COSTS )

ORDER APPROVING  
REFUND PLAN

NG21-009

On October 21, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval of its refund plan regarding its recovery of the manufactured gas plant (MGP) site remediation costs. The purpose of this filing is to update the refund mechanism established in docket NG16-010 where NorthWestern credited customers an over-collection related to MGP remediation allowed in docket NG11-003. The credit rate was subsequently adjusted annually, most recently in docket NG20-010. With two months remaining in the current refund plan, the over-recovered balance is \$491,374. NorthWestern has refunded approximately \$1.4 million in the first ten months of the current plan, however, actual remediation costs are lower than the amount recovered through the tracker. NorthWestern proposes to continue the refund plan for an additional 12 months at lower credit rates than are currently in effect. NorthWestern proposes a December 1, 2021, effective date for the new credit rates.

On October 28, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention date of November 12, 2021, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions for intervention or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

On November 23, 2021, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of NorthWestern's refund plan. The Commission voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's refund plan effective December 1, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's refund plan is hereby approved and effective December 1, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.

**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:

Date:

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Chi Nelson*

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

*Kristie Fiegen*

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

*Gary Hanson*

GARY HANSON, Commissioner