

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

| | | |
|---|----------|------------------------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) |) | ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION |
| NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE) |) | FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT |
| CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY) |) | STIPULATION AND ADOPTING |
| FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR) |) | SETTLEMENT STIPULATION |
| NATURAL GAS UTILITY SERVICE IN SOUTH) |) | |
| DAKOTA) |) | NG24-005 |

On June 21, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota service area by approximately \$6.0 million annually or approximately 9.10% based on NorthWestern’s 2023 historic test year. NorthWestern states a typical residential customer using 100 therms of gas per month would see an increase of \$8.38 or 7.92% per month. The proposed changes may affect approximately 49,800 customers.

On June 27, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 19, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission’s PUC Weekly Filing electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On July 8, 2024, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee; Order Suspending Operation of Proposed Rates; Order Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Consulting Contracts. On December 4, 2024, NorthWestern and staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation, and staff filed a Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation. On December 16, 2024, Commissioner Fiegen filed a Letter Regarding Customer Notice. On December 17, 2024, NorthWestern filed a revised Bill Insert Notice.

The revised tariff sheets proposed by NorthWestern and filed as Exhibit 2 to the Settlement Stipulation, effective for service rendered on and after December 19, 2024, are as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 2

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9th Revised Sheet No. 1 | Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 1 |
| 8th Revised Sheet No. 2 | Canceling 7th Revised Sheet No. 2 |

Section No. 3

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 23rd Revised Sheet No. 1 | Canceling 22nd Revised Sheet No. 1 |
| 9th Revised Sheet No. 2 | Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 2 |
| 12th Revised Sheet No. 3.1 | Canceling 11th Revised Sheet No. 3.1 |
| 9th Revised Sheet No. 3.2 | Canceling 8th Revised Sheet No. 3.2 |
| 5th Revised Sheet No. 3.3 | Canceling 4th Revised Sheet No. 3.3 |
| 14th Revised Sheet No. 4.1 | Canceling 13th Revised Sheet No. 4.1 |
| 3rd Revised Sheet No. 4.2 | Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 4.2 |
| 5th Revised Sheet No. 5.1 | Canceling 4th Revised Sheet No. 5.1 |
| 5th Revised Sheet No. 5.2 | Canceling 4th Revised Sheet No. 5.2 |
| 3rd Revised Sheet No. 5.3 | Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 5.3 |
| 2nd Revised Sheet No. 5.4 | Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 5.4 |
| 1st Revised Sheet No. 5.5 | Canceling Original Sheet No. 5.5 |
| 12th Revised Sheet No. 6.1 | Canceling 11th Revised Sheet No. 6.1 |
| 4th Revised Sheet No. 6.4A | Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.4A |
| 463rd Revised Sheet No. 9a | Canceling 462nd Revised Sheet No. 9a |
| 362nd Revised Sheet No. 9b | Canceling 361 st Revised Sheet No. 9b |

Section No. 5

2nd Revised Sheet No. 1b

6th Revised Sheet No. 4

Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1b

Canceling 5th Revised Sheet No. 4

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically, 1-26-20, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49 34A 19.2, 49-34A-21, and 49-34A-22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 17, 2024, the Commission considered the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. The Commission heard from NorthWestern and Commission staff concerning the Joint Motion and the related Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and made further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion and adopt the Settlement Stipulation with the revisions to the proposed Customer Notice as filed on December 17, 2024. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted and the Settlement Stipulation is hereby adopted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's proposed Customer Notice is approved as revised on December 17, 2024. It is further

ORDERED, that the tariff sheets set forth above are approved for service rendered on and after December 19, 2024.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of December 2024.

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 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: | <u><i>Kristie Fiegen</i></u> |
| Date: | <u>19 Dec 2024</u> |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner