

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING 1996
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR)	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
APPROVAL OF AN ECONOMIC)	REPORT AND 1997
DEVELOPMENT PLAN .)	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
)	PLAN
)	EL97-007

On April 8, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received Northern States Power Company's (NSP's) 1996 Economic Development Annual Report and proposed Economic Development Plan for 1997. The proposed plan was filed in accordance with the settlement agreements reached between NSP and Commission Staff, and approved by the Commission, in the company's most recent rate case filings, Dockets EL90-13 and EL92-016. The company filed additional data in regard to this matter on May 2, 1997. The Commission approved NSP's Economic Development Plan for 1994 on April 28, 1994, for 1995 on June 26, 1995, and for 1996 on May 22, 1996.

For 1997, NSP's proposed economic development investment budget is \$105,020. The actual expenditures for the 1996 Economic Development Plan were \$94,980. Fifty percent of the 1997 budget would be recovered through rates, with the remaining 50% funded by shareholders.

At its regularly scheduled May 13, 1997, meeting, the Commission reviewed NSP's 1996 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 1997. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. After review of the report and plan, the Commission found that they are just and reasonable and voted to approve them. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NSP's 1996 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 1997 are approved as filed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of May, 1997.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Almaire Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>5/23/97</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