

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED ) BY TODD SCHAUFENBUEL, HURON, SD, ) AGAINST NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE ) COMPANY )	ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINT AND CLOSING DOCKET NG97-005
--	---

On April 2, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by Todd Schaufenbuel of 809 Nebraska Street SW, Huron, South Dakota (Complainant), against Northwestern Public Service Company (NWPS). Complainant alleges that he experienced unusually high gas utility bills in December 1996 and January 1997, and that attempts to diagnose the cause, such as changing the gas meter, have proved futile.

On April 15, 1997, at its duly noticed meeting, the Commission reviewed the complaint. The Commission found that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-2, 49-34A-4, and ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09. The Commission voted unanimously to find probable cause. The Commission further ordered NWPS to have the meter tested at an independent testing facility. Subsequently, a compromise was reached between NWPS and the Complainant. On September 23, 1997, NWPS provided the meter test results to Commission staff. At its regularly scheduled October 9, 1997, meeting, the Commission reviewed the meter test results. Staff provided information to the Commission on the meter test results and further recommended that the docket be dismissed. The Commission being satisfied with the providing of the meter test results and it appearing that the matter is resolved between the Complainant and NWPS, it is therefore

ORDERED that the complaint is hereby dismissed; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this docket be and is hereby closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1997.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Delaine Kaabo</i></u>
Date: <u>10/17/97</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