

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE FOR) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR) NATURAL GAS SERVICE))	ORDER EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF IMPOSITION OF TARIFF NG99-002
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On June 1, 1999, NorthWestern Public Service (NWPS), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase natural gas rates in South Dakota. The application seeks an overall increase in rates in the amount of \$2,108,112 or approximately 6.3%. The Company requested a change in rate to become effective for billings after July 1, 1999. On June 22, 1999, the Commission suspended the proposed schedule of rates for 90 days beyond July 1, 1999. On September 7, 1999, Commission Staff filed a Petition with the Commission requesting that the suspension of the tariff be further extended through December 1, 1999.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-34A-2, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.1, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-16, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-20, 49-34A-21, 49-34A-22, and 49-34A-23.

At its September 8, 1999, meeting, the Commission considered this matter. NWPS stated that it did not object to the extension. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the extension sought by Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended through December 1, 1999, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of September, 1999.

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>Aldene Karbo</i></u>
Date: <u>9/14/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHÖENFELDER, Commissioner