

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL) OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH) SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY)	ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS NG02-004
---	--

On July 29, 2002, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of its 6th Revised Sheet No. 1 of Section 4 of NWE's' filed Natural Gas Tariff. The revised schedule lists an additional Contract with Deviations pursuant to which NWE proposes to provide natural gas service to South Dakota State University for its central heating plant. The negotiated delivery service rate recovers related cost of service and represents a net benefit to NWE's system and its customer base. NWE requested the contract rates become effective with meter readings on and after September 1, 2002.

On September 5, 2002, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11. Further, the Commission finds that NWE's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that as of the date of this Order, the request seeking approval of a Contract with Deviations is in the public interest and is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after September 1, 2002.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of September, 2002.

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>Alfredo Krebs</u>
Date:	<u>9/19/02</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner