

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY ) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL ) REVISIONS  
OF TARIFF REVISIONS ) NG02-010**

On November 26, 2002, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Energy (NWE) for approval of revisions to its natural gas tariff to terminate Manufactured Gas Plant cost recovery. In Docket NG96-015, NWE filed to make numerous changes to its natural gas tariff, including recovery of costs associated with manufactured gas plant clean-up. The result of the filing was a per therm surcharge approved by the Commission to recover the manufactured gas plant costs. NWE has now completed recovery of the related costs and now requests discontinuance of the surcharge. NWE proposes to pass back an associated over-recovery to customers through the commodity gas cost true-up in the Adjustment Clause.

The proposed revised tariff is Section No. 3, 4th Revised Sheet No. 11, Cancelling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 11.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 19, 2002, the Commission considered this matter.

Commission Staff recommended approval of the tariff revisions and of the over-recovery pass back through the gas cost true up with the following conditions concerning the inclusion of the over-recovery in the Adjustment Clause:

1. Approval of this request is a one time, case specific approval and any future deviation from filed Adjustment Clause tariffs must be filed for and approved by the Commission before implementation.
2. The Adjustment Clause currently tariffed is not changed by this approval and no precedent is created by approval of this request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. The Commission further finds that the filing is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

**ORDERED**, that the above mentioned proposed tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after January 1, 2003, and the over-recovery pass back through the gas cost true up is approved with the following conditions:

1. Approval of this request is a one time, case specific approval and any future deviation from filed Adjustment Clause tariffs must be filed for and approved by the Commission before implementation.

2. The Adjustment Clause currently tariffed is not changed by this approval and no precedent is created by approval of this request.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2003.

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>Nelaine Kelbo</i></u>
Date:	<u>1/6/03</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