

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR)
NATURAL GAS SERVICE)

**ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION**

NG04-001

On April 2, 2004, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service in its service territory by \$1,559,963 or approximately 1.5% of pro forma test year revenue. MidAmerican states the proposed increase for an average residential customer would be approximately \$2.50 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 73,100 customers in MidAmerican Energy Company's service territory in southeastern South Dakota. On May 14, 2004, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed a Petition for Intervention in this docket.

At its regularly scheduled May 24, 2004, meeting, the Commission considered the Petition for Intervention. The Commission found that pursuant to its authority under SDCL 1-26-17.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03, the petition of Northern was timely filed and demonstrated good cause for granting intervention. By order dated June 2, 2004, the Commission granted intervention to Northern. On May 21, 2004, NorthWestern Services Corporation (NorthWestern) late filed a Petition to Intervene.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 1-26-17.1, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13.1 and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and .03.

At its regularly scheduled June 8, 2004, meeting, the Commission considered the late filed Petition to Intervene. The Commission found that good cause was shown to grant NorthWestern's late filed Petition to Intervene. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern shall be granted intervention and shall be considered a party in this matter.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of June, 2004.

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: Melaine Kolbo

Date: 6/14/04

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner