

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )  
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES )  
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A )  
REFUND PLAN )**

**ORDER APPROVING  
REFUND PLAN**

**NG11-007**

On November 23, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (MERC) for approval of a refund plan. MERC is requesting Commission approval of a refund plan to return to their former customers a refund which represents amounts received related to Kansas ad valorem taxes and also a final true up of purchased gas cost collections. The refund is proposed to be allocated based on actual customer usage over a twelve month period and includes interest at a FERC determined rate.

On November 24, 2011, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing requesting approval of the refund plan to interested individuals and entities. The notice stated that any person wishing to intervene had until December 5, 2011, to do so. No petitions to intervene were filed.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2011, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval with the condition that the Commission find that use of the FERC determined interest rate is acceptable in this filing but that this acceptance is not applicable to any other proceeding unless specifically approved by the Commission.

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 use of the FERC determined interest rate is acceptable in this filing but that this acceptance is not applicable to any other proceeding unless specifically approved by the Commission. 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 refund plan is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of December, 2011.

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| <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, electronically. |
| By: <u>[Signature]</u>   |
| Date: <u>12-13-11</u>  |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL)  |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

[Signature]  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

[Signature]  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner