

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS REFUND PLAN)
REGARDING ITS RECOVERY OF)
MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE)
REMEDICATION COSTS)

**ORDER APPROVING
REFUND PLAN ON AN
INTERIM BASIS**

NG16-010

On September 1, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed for approval of a refund plan regarding its recovery of manufactured gas plant (MGP) site remediation costs. The purpose of this filing is to provide a mechanism for NorthWestern to credit customers an over-collection related to MGP remediation allowed in docket NG11-003. NorthWestern states that actual costs for the years 2011 through 2015 were significantly less than what was anticipated at the time of approval of docket NG11-003, resulting in a refund due to customers. NorthWestern proposes to administer the refund via bill credits, which will be applicable from November 1, 2016, through October 31, 2017.

On September 8, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 23, 2016, to interested persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On November 14, 2016, NorthWestern filed a letter requesting approval of its refund plan on an interim basis effective December 1, 2016, subject to a later resolution of an unresolved issue between NorthWestern and Commission Staff.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, including 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 22, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended that the Commission approve NorthWestern's refund plan on an interim basis effective December 1, 2016, subject to a later resolution of an unresolved issue between NorthWestern and Commission Staff. The Commission voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's refund plan on an interim basis effective December 1, 2016. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's refund plan is approved on an interim basis effective December 1, 2016.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of November, 2016.

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, electronically or by mail.

By: Adam deHueck

Date: 11/23/16

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner