

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION)	FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)	STIPULATION
APPROVAL OF ITS REFUND PLAN)	
REGARDING ITS RECOVERY OF)	NG16-010
MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT SITE)	
REMEDICATION COSTS)	

On September 1, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) 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. On November 23, 2016, the Commission issued an Order Approving Refund Plan on an Interim Basis. On January 19, 2017, NorthWestern and Commission Staff filed a Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-20, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

The Joint Motion was noticed for Commission consideration and action at the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on January 27, 2017. The Commission heard from NorthWestern and Staff concerning the Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and made further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion and approve the Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's and Staff's Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted and the Settlement Stipulation is approved. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of January, 2017.

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:	<u>Adam Detrick</u>
Date:	<u>1/30/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner