

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES)**

**ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION

EL14-106**

On December 19, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Rates for Electric Utility Service in South Dakota (Application) filed by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval to increase rates for electric service customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$26.5 million annually or approximately 20.24% based on NorthWestern's test year ending September 30, 2014. NorthWestern states that a typical residential electric customer using 750 kWh per month would see an increase of \$16.76 per month. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 62,100 customers in NorthWestern's South Dakota service territory. NorthWestern proposes an effective date of March 1, 2015.

On December 24, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of February 6, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. On January 8, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee and Suspending Operation of Proposed Rates. On February 6, 2015, Toshiba America Business Solutions, Inc., Trail King industries, Inc., and Redfield Energy, LLC (collectively, the Industrial Intervenors) and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Wal-Mart) filed Petitions to Intervene.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13 and 20:10:01:15.02 through 20:10:01:15.05.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 2, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. NorthWestern stated that it did not object to granting the Petitions to Intervene. Finding that the Petitions to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention, the Commission voted unanimously to grant intervention to Industrial Intervenors and Wal-Mart. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petitions to Intervene of Industrial Intervenors and Wal-Mart are hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of March, 2015.

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.

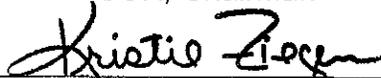
By: _____

Date: 3/3/15

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


CHRIS NELSON, Chairman


KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner