

NG 99 - 005



NG 99-005

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August 23, 1999

Mr. William Bullard
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

AUG 24 1999

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Gas Transportation Tariff Change - Fuel Retention Percentage

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of 4th Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff. This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12 month period ending July 31.

The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 1999 is 1.48%. This is an increase of 1.09% from the currently effective retention percentage of 0.39%. The retention percentages effective October 1, 1996 and 1997 were 3.06% and 2.17%, respectively. Exhibit A, attached, shows the computation of the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the twelve month period ending July 1, 1999.

NorthWestern asks that the proposed retention percentage be approved to be effective October 1, 1999.

Sincerely,

Jeff J. Decker

Jeff J. Decker

enclosure

SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
HURON
SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5
4th Revised Sheet No. 6.2
Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.2

CLASS OF SERVICE: Gas Transportation Tariffs
RATE DESIGNATION: General Terms and Conditions

(Con't)

6. Liability:

- (a) General - Gas shall be and shall remain the property of the Customer while being transported and delivered by the Company. The Company shall not be liable to the Customer for any loss arising from or out of Gas Transportation Service while in the Company's system or for any other cause, except for gross or willful negligence of the Company's own employees. The Company reserves the right to commingle gas of the Customer with other gas supplies including propane and liquefied natural gas.
- (b) Insurance - The Customer shall be responsible for determining the extent of and maintaining all insurance it deems necessary to protect its property interest in such gas before, during, and after receipt by the Company.

7. Retention: A Customer or Group Customer, if applicable, shall have the option to choose one of the following methods to apply retention:

Option One (Indexed Based): The value of retention shall be determined by multiplying i) the monthly average price plus applicable interstate pipeline transportation charges as reported in the BTU's Daily Gas Wire Index for each pipeline (NNG: MidContinent Pooling Point) times ii) the Retention percentage times iii) the Deliveries. This value shall be billed monthly. This billing shall represent compensation for Lost and Unaccounted for Gas. The Retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system is 1.48% and will be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by the Company for the prior 12-month period ending July 31. Retention amounts collected under this option will be credited to expense in PGA true-up filings. If the Customer, or Group Customer, does not select one of the options presented in this retention section, retention shall be calculated as stated in this paragraph.

Option Two (Inkind): The Customer, or Group Customer, if applicable, upon written request, may deliver retention quantities inkind. The request shall include the Customer's account number and the meter number of which inkind retention is being requested and shall be delivered to the Company's representative. Upon the Company's acknowledgment of the receipt of the request, the Customer shall be allowed to deliver retention volumes inkind. The Customer shall have the option to have the quantity of transportation gas received from the transporting pipeline reduced, upon delivery to the Customer, by a fixed percentage of 1.48% (to be adjusted as set forth above), which shall represent compensation for Company-Used Gas and Lost and Unaccounted For Gas. Where fuel reimbursement is inkind, the standard fuel calculation mechanism, as this is related to the nominating process, should be $(1 - (\text{fuel \%}/100))$ multiplied by receipt quantity = delivery quantity.

Date Filed: August 23, 1999

Effective Date: October 1, 1999

Michael J. Hanson
Issued By: President & CEO

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE
Gas Balancing Statement
Twelve Months Ended July 31, 1999

Exhibit A

Description	MMBtu					
	9 Mos. Ended 9/30/98	3 Mos. Ended 12/31/98	Year Ended 12/31/98	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/99	7 Mos. Ended 7/31/98	12 Mos. Ended 7/31/99
Gas Sources						
Purchases	3,351,937	2,016,916	5,368,853	3,210,415	3,186,046	5,393,222
Transportation Receipts	2,229,679	899,713	3,129,392	2,076,291	1,844,208	3,361,475
Propane Peaking	20	9	29	0	20	9
Total Sources	5,581,636	2,916,638	8,498,274	5,286,706	5,030,274	8,754,706
Gas Uses						
Sales	3,855,852	1,317,632	5,173,484	3,775,627	3,674,417	5,274,694
Transportation Deliveries	2,181,295	896,213	3,077,508	2,068,214	1,804,189	3,341,533
Company Use	5,934	1,895	7,829	6,568	5,804	8,593
Total Uses	6,043,081	2,215,740	8,258,821	5,850,409	5,484,410	8,624,820
Lost & Unaccounted For	(461,445)	700,898	239,453	(563,703)	(454,136)	129,886
L&U Retention Percentage	2.17%	0.39%		0.39%	2.17%	1.48%

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of August 19, 1999 through August 25, 1999

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT99-037 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Lyle Tunheim, Andover, South Dakota, against MCI WorldCom Regarding Increase in Rates Without Notice.

The Complainant indicates that he was contacted by a telemarketer representing MCI offering a rate of 10 cents per minute for long distance calling. The Complainant then received a billing in which he was charged up to \$3.04 per minute. The Complainant wishes the billing to be rerated to 10 cents per minute.

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: July 8, 1999
Intervention Date: NA

CT99-038 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Leren A. Odland, Arlington, South Dakota, against Preferred Billing Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.

The Complainant indicates that phone service for Trinity Lutheran Church was switched to Preferred Billing without authorization during December 1998. The Complainant has been unable to successfully resolve the dispute and is seeking complete reimbursement of charges and penalties assessed.

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Filed: August 9, 1999
Intervention Date: NA

NATURAL GAS

NG99-004 In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Public Service for Approval of Contract with Deviations with Dakota Ethanol - Lake Area Corn Processors.

NorthWestern Public Services is proposing to revise its South Dakota Natural Gas Tariff. The proposed revision lists an additional Contract with Deviations to serve Dakota Ethanol - Lake Area Corn Processors, a new ethanol plant near Wentworth.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: August 24, 1999
Intervention Date: September 10, 1999

NG99-003 In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Public Service for Approval of Tariff Revisions.

NorthWestern Public Service has filed to revise its South Dakota Natural Gas Tariff by adjusting its fuel retention percentage in Subsection 6.2. The Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions call for the retention percentage for the Company's South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually based upon the actual percentage incurred by the Company in the prior year.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Filed: August 24, 1999
Intervention Date: September 10, 1999

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC99-087 In the Matter of the Application of TON Services Inc. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

TON Services Inc. has filed a request for a Certificate of Authority to offer resold interexchange services, specifically prepaid card service, to residential and business customers.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Filed: August 20, 1999
Intervention Date: September 10, 1999

TC99-086 In the Matter of the Application of AS Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a ALLSTAR Telecom for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota.

AS Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a ALLSTAR Telecom has filed a request for a Certificate of Authority to offer resold intrastate interexchange services, including, but not limited to, 1+ telecommunications service; and toll free, private line, and travel card services.

Staff Analyst: Heather Forney
Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Date Filed: August 25, 1999
Intervention Date: September 10, 1999

You may receive this listing and other PUC publications via our website or via internet e-mail.
You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>

NB99-005

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NorthWestern™
PUBLIC SERVICE

August 31, 1999

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Mr. William Bullard, Executive Director
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED
SEP 01 1999

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Bullard:

Enclosed are an original and ten copies of the 4th Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section 5 of NorthWestern's filed Natural Gas Tariff indicating the proposed changes in the right-hand margin of the schedule. Sorry this has been inadvertently left off.

Should you have any questions regarding the above changes, please advise.

Sincerely,

Jeff J. Decker/lak

Jeff J. Decker

JJD/lak

cc: Heather Forney, Utility Analyst

Enclosures

SOUTH DAKOTA GAS RATE SCHEDULE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
HURON
SOUTH DAKOTA

Section No. 5
Sheet No. 6.1
4th Revised
Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.1

CLASS OF SERVICE: Gas Transportation Tariffs
RATE DESIGNATION: General Terms and Conditions

(Con't)

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Date Filed: August 23, 1999

Effective Date: October 1, 1999

Michael J. Hanson
Issued By: President & CEO

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF
NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE) REVISIONS
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF)
REVISIONS)
NG99-005

On August 24, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Public Service Company (NWPS) for approval of revisions to its 3rd Revised Sheet No. 6.2 of Section No. 5 of NWPS' filed Natural Gas Tariff. According to the filing, "This filing is made to comply with the fuel retention provisions of Paragraph 7 of the Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Those provisions call for the retention percentage for NWPS' South Dakota distribution system to be adjusted annually, to be effective October 1, based on the actual percentage incurred by NWPS for the prior 12 month period ending July 31. The new fuel retention percentage proposed to be effective October 1, 1999 is 1.48%. This is an increase of 1.09% from the currently effective retention percentage of 0.39%."

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 21, 1999, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval.

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 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 tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 1999.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of September, 1999.

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:	<u>Alicia Kaelbo</u>
Date:	<u>9/23/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner