

**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 GAS TRANSPORTATION TARIFF)
REVISIONS REGARDING FUEL RETENTION)
PERCENTAGE)**

**ORDER APPROVING
TARIFF REVISIONS**

NG16-009

On August 24, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern). This filing proposes to update Sheet No. 6.2 in Section No. 5 of NorthWestern's filed natural gas tariff. NorthWestern's tariff provides that the Fuel Retention Percentage is to be updated annually and be effective October 1 each year. NorthWestern also proposes to update the fuel rate for customers with an average daily therm usage greater than 30,000. NorthWestern states that customers who fit this high usage criterion are primarily direct connect customers whose gas system is not subject to the normal losses in a distribution system. NorthWestern seeks an effective date of October 1, 2016.

The revised tariff sheets are as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 5

21st Revised Sheet No. 6.2

Canceling 20th Revised Sheet No. 6.2

On August 25, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 9, 2016, to interested entities and persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, including 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-25, and ARSD 20:10:13:02 through 20:10:13:28.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 13, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of the tariff revisions with an October 1, 2016, effective date. Finding the revisions to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the tariff revisions. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's revised tariff as described above is approved effective October 1, 2016.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of September, 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: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>09/19/2016</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner