

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	Application No. NG-101/PI-224
Commission, on its own motion,)	
opening an investigatory docket)	
for the purpose of general)	ORDER OPENING DOCKET,
monitoring of issues regarding)	CREATING SUBDOCKETS, AND
the natural gas industry and)	NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT
jurisdictional utilities in)	
Nebraska.)	
)	
Black Hills/Nebraska Gas)	Docket No. NG-101.1
Utility Company, LLC, and Black)	
Hills Gas Distribution, LLC,)	
d/b/a Black Hills Energy)	
)	
-----)	Docket No. NG-101.2
)	
NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a)	
NorthWestern Energy)	Entered: May 14, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"), on its own motion, opens this docket in order to monitor issues faced by the Nebraska natural gas industry and Nebraska jurisdictional utilities outside individually docketed proceedings. The purpose of this investigatory docket is to allow regular status updates and meetings between the Commission's Natural Gas Department ("Department"), Nebraska's natural gas public utilities ("utilities"), and the Public Advocate.

The Commission is authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1804 to do all things necessary and convenient to regulate natural gas public utilities and carry into effect the provisions of the State Natural Gas Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1801 - 1868. In order to carry out these provisions, the Natural Gas Department wishes to promote open communication between the utilities, the Department, and the Public Advocate. The Department has determined that such communication would best be served by holding regular meetings with the utilities and the Public Advocate. The Commission finds that this is a reasonable request which should be granted.

In order for the Commission to appropriately and fairly assess costs related to activities related to this docket,

including costs for the services of the Public Advocate, the Public Advocate's consultants, and/or the Commission's consultants, to the appropriate utility, each utility will be assigned a separate sub-docket within the above-captioned docket as indicated above. Assessments will be made within each sub-docket accordingly. Any orders entered in the general docket of NG-101/PI-224 shall be deemed applicable to all sub-dockets, including orders granting formal interventions.

This docket, and meetings held pursuant to this docket, will be held for the following purposes:

1. Promotion of open communication between the Commission, the Public Advocate, and the utilities;
2. Discussion of general status updates;
3. Discussion of current events and issues as they pertain to the Commission and the natural gas utility; and
4. Discussion of upcoming filing deadlines, general procedural issues, and related topics.

Discussion, negotiations, and consultations beyond procedural matters on any pending or proposed dockets to be filed are outside the scope of this docket. This docket is not intended to serve as a vehicle for pre-filing review by the Department or the Public Advocate of proposed filings by the utilities before they are made. Negotiations regarding specific issues pertaining to individual dockets will be considered outside the scope of this docket.

Meetings held pursuant to this docket will be open to the public. Dates, times, and locations of the meetings will be posted on the Commission's website. Agendas will be made available to attendees. If any party wishes for an item on the meeting agenda to be discussed privately due to the sharing of sensitive or confidential information, such discussion item will be marked as "Confidential Item" on the meeting agenda prior to the beginning of the meeting, and discussion that topic will be subject to the provisions of a protective order, to be issued at a later date.

Following the opening of this docket, scheduling orders will be issued establishing the date, time and location of upcoming meetings held pursuant to this docket. Meetings in 2019

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will be held quarterly in the first month of each quarter, in July and October. Following these initial meetings, the parties will discuss whether meetings should continue on a quarterly schedule, or whether more or less frequent meetings may be appropriate. Parties will be permitted to participate telephonically but encouraged to attend in person.

The Commission finds that it may be necessary to assess certain expenses associated with this docket to the appropriate utility pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840. The Commission hereby provides notice to the jurisdictional utilities, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840, that expenses may be assessed.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket is hereby opened for the purposes described herein.

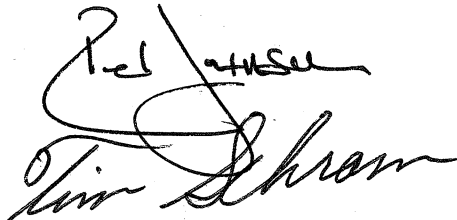
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy and NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy are hereby given notice of assessment as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of this order shall be mailed to Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy and NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 14th day of May, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

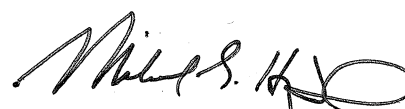
COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:



//s//Dan Watermeier


Chair

ATTEST:



Executive Director