

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) ASSESSMENT ORDER NO. BA-2
monitoring of issues regarding)
the natural gas industry and)
jurisdictional utilities in)
Nebraska.) Entered: July 30, 2019

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission has received a letter dated July 2, 2019, from Blake Austin Law Firm, LLP, (Public Advocate) for costs associated with the above-captioned docket, totaling \$378.00. Commission staff has reviewed the invoice and found it to conform to the current Agreement between the Commission and the Public Advocate.

Commission staff recommends the Commission approve assessment of the above-described invoice, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Upon the recommendation of the Commission staff, the Commission finds that the assessment for the above-mentioned invoice from the Public Advocate should be approved. As the costs included on the invoice are of a general nature to the above-captioned docket and not attributable to one specific Jurisdictional Utility, the costs should be assessed via allocation to all three Jurisdictional Utilities involved in the above-captioned docket, Black Hills Energy, Black Hills Distribution, and NorthWestern Energy. The Commission further finds that the Commission should pay the invoice upon receipt of payment from Black Hills Energy, Black Hills Distribution, and NorthWestern Energy.

The costs of the above-mentioned invoices for general services in the docket shall be allocated as allowed in Section 66-1841(4) of the Act. Such allocation is based upon the number of meters served as reported by the Jurisdictional Utilities on or about April 30, 2018, pursuant to Rule 006, of the Commission Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations, See 291 NAC 9, § 006. Appendix A shows the allocation of the assessed amount to the Jurisdictional Utilities.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the Jurisdictional Utilities pay the amounts set forth in Appendix A, attached to this order, within 15 days from the date that notice of assessment is mailed, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1841(4).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Commission that the above-mentioned assessment is approved and hereby made and that payment be made upon receipt of payment by Black Hills Energy, Black Hills Distribution, and NorthWestern Energy.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 30th day of July, 2019.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Crystal Knoder

Mary Riehl
Chair

[Signature]

ATTEST:

Don Waters

Michelle H. [Signature]
Executive Director

Tim Schum

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Appendix A

	<u>Meters</u> <u>12/31/18</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Of Total</u>	<u>Prorated</u> <u>Assessment</u>
Black Hills Energy	201,545	60.64%	\$229.22
Black Hills Distribution	88,526	26.64%	\$100.70
NorthWestern	42,259	12.72%	<u>\$48.08</u>
Total			\$378.00