

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. NG-0013
on its own motion, to evaluate)
and establish, on a quarterly)
basis, an assessment for)
jurisdictional utilities) PROGRESSION ORDER NO. 53
pursuant to the State Natural)
Gas Regulation Act, Neb. Rev.)
Stat. § 66-1801 et seq.) Entered: October 18, 2016

BY THE COMMISSION:

The State Natural Gas Regulation Act (Act) requires that the Commission assess its expenditures for each quarter-year against all jurisdictional utilities, subject to certain adjustments. See Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1841. The Act provides that the Commission shall determine its expenditures for the given quarter within 30 days after such quarter. This order addresses the assessment for expenses during the second-quarter of fiscal year 2016-2017, October through December, 2016.

Actual first-quarter expenditures for the 2016-2017 fiscal year totaled \$129,086. Projected expenses for the second-quarter of the 2016-2017 fiscal year total \$127,341. The total balance in the State Natural Gas Regulation Cash Fund as of September 30, 2016, was \$148,659.

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

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission finds that an assessment of \$95,000 is necessary to pay all expenses, to provide a sufficient reserve and to maintain a cash flow until the next assessment evaluation and collection.

Appendix A shows the allocation of the assessed amount to the Jurisdictional Utilities, as required by Section 66-1841(4) of the Act. The allocated amounts are based upon number of meters served, as reported by the Jurisdictional Utilities on or about April 30, 2016, pursuant to Rule 006, of the Commission Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations, See 291 NAC 9, § 006.

The assessed amounts are as follows: for Black Hills Energy, \$57,278.58; for Black Hills Distribution, \$25,605.78; and for NorthWestern, \$12,093.50.

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The Act permits a jurisdictional utility to recover the amount of any assessments or charges paid to the Commission pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840 or § 66-1841 as a special surcharge billed to ratepayers. The surcharge must be shown on customer billing statements as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1841(7)(a).

O R D E R

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

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 18th day of October, 2016.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Frank E. Landis

Tim Schram

//s//Frank E. Landis
//s//Tim Schram

Tim Schram

Chairman

ATTEST:

John L. Puleo

Executive Director

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Appendix A

	<u>Meters</u> <u>12/31/14</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Of Total</u>	<u>Prorated</u> <u>Assessment</u>
Black Hills Energy	197,026	60.29%	\$57,278.58*
Black Hills Distribution	88,126	26.96%	\$25,605.78*
NorthWestern	41,665	12.75%	<u>\$12,093.50*</u>
Total			\$94,977.86*

*Reflects allocation of the current \$95,000 assessment with prior period adjustments included.