

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of Northwestern) Application No. NG-0048
Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern)
Energy, Sioux Falls, South) HEARING OFFICER ORDER
Dakota, seeking approval of a) SETTING HEARING
natural gas general rate)
increase for Nebraska.) Entered: November 30, 2007

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On June 1, 2007, Northwestern Corporation, d/b/a North-Western Energy,(Northwestern), Sioux Falls, South Dakota filed an Application for Natural Gas Rate Increase (Application) under the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1801 et seq. (2003) (the Act)*. The Application seeks to increase rates to customers located in North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, and Alda. In accordance with *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1838*, Northwestern sought to negotiate the rate increase directly with the above-mentioned municipalities. The matter was certified for negotiations on July 24, 2007.

On November 21, 2007, Northwestern filed Notice of Settlement and a copy of the Settlement agreement reached with the above-listed municipalities. Pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1838(14)*, "Any agreement filed with the commission shall be presumed in the public interest, and absent any clear evidence on the face of the agreement that it is contrary to the standards and provisions of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, the agreement shall be approved by the commission within a reasonable time."

The Hearing Officer finds that hearing on the Agreement filed by Northwestern shall be set for **December 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Commission's review is limited to the face of the agreement. Therefore, the hearing is intended only to afford Commissioners and Commission staff the opportunity to ask questions regarding the agreement. Any presentation or comments will be received in the same manner as oral argument. The only evidence to be entered into the record will be the settlement agreement itself. Members of the public will be afforded an opportunity to comment, but will not be required to be placed under oath.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that this matter is set for hearing on December 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 30th day of November, 2007.

BY:


Hearing Officer