

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of SourceGas	)	Application No. NG-0060
Distribution LLC, Lakewood,	)	
Colorado, seeking approval of a	)	ASSESSMENT ORDER
general rate increase.	)	NO. HS-007.1
	)	
	)	Entered: June 29, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission received a letter dated November 19, 2009, from Harding & Shultz for Public Advocate's Consultant services cost associated with the above-captioned docket incurred from August through November 2009, totaling \$19,950.00. Commission staff has reviewed the invoices and found them to conform to the Agreements dated October 23, 2009, and November 15, 2008, between the Commission and Harding & Shultz.

Investigation-related assessments are governed by *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 66-1840, which specifies a maximum limit on the amount that may be assessed to a jurisdictional utility during a fiscal year.

The maximum amount assessable to SourceGas pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840 during the 2009-10 fiscal year is \$346,174. On August 18, 2009, the Commission voted to allocate the maximum amount assessable between the Public Advocate and the Commission consultants, setting aside up to \$100,000 for the Commission consultants and the remainder for the Public Advocate. See Nebraska Public Service Commission Minutes, page 7680, August 18, 2009.

The Commission-prescribed limitation for Public Advocate expenses would have been exceeded if the full amount due for this invoice were assessed; therefore assessment at the amount of \$10,000.00 was made December 15, 2009.

Commission staff recommends the Commission approve partial assessment of \$515.16 for the expenses reflected on the invoice against SourceGas Distribution LLC (SourceGas), pursuant to *Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 66-1840*, as described above.

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

Upon the recommendations of the Commission staff, the Commission finds that assessment against SourceGas of expenses reflected in the above-mentioned invoice from Harding & Shultz should be approved as described above. The Commission further finds that the Commission should pay the invoice upon receipt of payment by SourceGas.

The remaining balance of \$9,434.84 will be assessed during the next fiscal year.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Commission that the above-mentioned assessment in the amount of \$515.16 is approved and hereby made and that payment of the above-mentioned amount be made upon receipt of payment by SourceGas Distribution LLC.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 29th day of June, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

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NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Red Johnson*

Chairman

*Gerald L. Vap*

*Aune Boefe*

ATTEST:

*Tim Schwan*

*Michael J. [Signature]*

//s// Frank E. Landis

Executive Director

//s// Gerald L. Vap