

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the NorthWestern) Application No. NG-0064
Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,)
seeking to include certain)
personnel costs in a future gas) ORDER SETTING HEARING AND
cost adjustment.) NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT
)
) Entered: October 13, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

On October 5, 2010, NorthWestern Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota filed its 18th Revised Sheet No. 7.1 of NorthWestern's Gas Tariff which included its updated gas cost adjustment (GCA) effective for meter readings on and after November 2, 2010. NorthWestern states that based upon the change from an exclusive supplier agreement to an Asset Management Agreement, NorthWestern will have the opportunity to purchase gas at various points along the interstate pipeline from a variety of suppliers. The utility further states that the change will require personnel dedicated to the management of supply under the contract. NorthWestern also states that it intends to include in its April 2011 GCA the accumulated costs related to the salary and benefits for the employee.

Although not specifically set forth in the filing, it is clear that NorthWestern seeks Commission approval to include these costs in its April filing. Therefore we have treated the filing as an application seeking approval of the Commission on the narrow question of whether the inclusion in the GCA of the salary and benefits of the employee needed to manage supplies under the new agreement until the next general rate filing is permissible.

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

The Commission further finds that a hearing on the matter shall be scheduled for **December 1, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 the Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at the meeting, please call the Commission at (402) 471-3101. For people with hearing/speech impairments, please call the Commission at (402) 471-0213 (TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 (TDD) or (800) 833-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that NorthWestern Energy, is 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 NorthWestern Energy.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that hearing on the above-captioned matter shall be scheduled for **December 1, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 the Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 13th day of October, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Application No. NG-0064

Page 2

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that NorthWestern Energy, is 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 NorthWestern Energy.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that hearing on the above-captioned matter shall be scheduled for **December 1, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 the Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

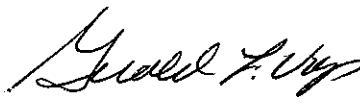
MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 13th day of October, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman



ATTEST:



Executive Director

//s// Frank E. Landis
//s// Gerald L. Vap