

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of SourceGas ) Application No. NG-0067  
Distribution LLC, Lakewood, Colorado, )  
seeking approval of a general rate )  
increase. ) ASSESSMENT ORDER  
 ) NO. HS-003  
 )  
 ) Entered: June 26, 2012

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission received an invoice from Harding & Shultz dated December 1, 2011, for costs associated with the above-captioned docket totaling \$18,556.82. On December 13, 2011, the Commission entered an order assessing the amount \$3,773.56 for this invoice to SourceGas Distribution LLC (SourceGas), leaving a balance due of \$14,783.26.

Additionally, the Commission received an invoice from Harding & Shultz dated January 6, 2012, for costs associated with the above-captioned docket totaling \$17,747.36. Commission staff has reviewed this invoice and found it to conform to the Agreement dated 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 total amount, in any one fiscal year, for which any utility shall be assessed under this section shall not exceed the following: (a) For a jurisdictional utility that has not filed an annual report with the commission as provided in the State Natural Gas Regulation Act prior to the beginning of the commission's fiscal year, actual expenses, including direct and indirect expenses, incurred by the commission; and (b) for any other jurisdictional utility, one percent of the utility's gross operating jurisdictional revenue less gas cost derived from intrastate natural gas utility business as reflected in the last annual report filed with the commission pursuant to the act prior to the beginning of the commission's fiscal year. The commission may render bills in one fiscal year for costs incurred within a previous fiscal year.

*Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1840.*

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The maximum amount assessable to SourceGas Distribution LLC (SourceGas) for the 2011-2012 fiscal year is \$406,505.86, consistent with Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 66-1840. By vote on October 18, 2012, the Commission allocated a total of \$276,505.86 to the Public Advocate for assessment to SourceGas under sec. 66-1840, reserving the remaining \$130,000 for assessment of Commission consultant costs, for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. As of December 13, 2011, the Commission had assessed the total amount available to the Public Advocate. To date, Commission consultant costs total \$112,130.15, leaving the amount of \$17,869.85 which could be assessed during this fiscal year.

The Commission finds that the amount of \$17,869.85 may be assessed for costs of the Public Advocate.

Commission staff recommends that pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. sec. 66-1840, the Commission approve assessments of the following amounts, totaling \$17,869.85: for the invoice dated December 1, 2011, the remaining balance of \$14,783.26; and for the invoice dated January 6, 2012, the amount of \$3,086.59. The remaining balance of the invoice dated January 6, 2012, may be assessed at a later date.

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 a total of \$17,869.85. The Commission further finds that the Commission should pay the invoice upon receipt of payment by SourceGas.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Commission that the above-described assessment of \$17,869.85 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 26th day of June, 2012.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*Tim Schram*  
*Aune Boefle*

Chairman

*Rod Johnson*

ATTEST:

*The 1/20*

*Gerald L. Vap*  
//s// Rod Johnson  
//s// Frank Landis

Executive Director  
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