

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,)	Application No. NG-0095/
on its own motion, seeking to)	PI-213
investigate the effect of the)	
Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017)	ORDER SETTING PROCEDURAL
upon rates set by Nebraska's)	SCHEDULE
natural gas public utilities.)	
)	
)	
NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a)	Docket No. NG-0095.1
NorthWestern Energy)	
)	
)	
)	Entered: June 25, 2018

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On March 20, 2018, the Nebraska Public Service Commission opened a docket seeking to investigate the effects of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), Public Law No. 115-97, upon all natural gas public utilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction under the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 66-1801 - 66-1868. Since the opening of this docket, the Public Advocate, the City of Grand Island, and the City of Kearney have each filed petitions for formal intervention in this matter. Each of these petitions has been granted. The City of North Platte also filed a petition for intervention and was designated as an informal intervenor. The cities of Grand Island, Kearney, and North Platte will be collectively referred to as "the Cities" henceforth.

In an order dated April 26, 2018, the Commission subdivided this matter into three subdockets to enable the Commission to address each jurisdictional utility individually. A hearing has been held on NG-0095.2 and NG-0095.3, and the parties to those subdockets have filed a Joint Stipulation which has been approved by the Commission in an order dated June 19, 2018.

The Commission has been in communication with the parties to NG-0095.1, that being NorthWestern Energy and the Cities. It is the Commission's understanding that the parties intend to make a joint filing to the Commission regarding the results of their discussions regarding the TCJA. As a result of these communications, the Commission sets forth the following procedural schedule:

- The parties have advised that they intend to make a joint filing to the Commission, which will describe the discussions NorthWestern Energy has held with the Cities regarding the effects of the TCJA upon natural gas rates. This filing will be made to the Commission on or before **July 20, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.**
- NorthWestern Energy will make a presentation to the Commission regarding the effects of the TCJA upon its natural gas rates during the Commission's regularly scheduled weekly meeting on **August 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** This presentation will include an overview of NorthWestern Energy's negotiations with the Cities, the parties' plan to address TCJA effects upon natural gas rates, and any plans NorthWestern Energy has regarding upcoming rate applications or tariff filings with the Commission.
- NorthWestern Energy will include in its presentation an overview of an advanced metering system which it intends to introduce to Nebraska customers within the coming months.

Service

Parties may meet filing deadlines outlined herein by sending an electronic copy of the filing via electronic mail to deena.ackerman@nebraska.gov and sallie.dietrich@nebraska.gov, so long as all parties are served via electronic mail contemporaneously with the email filing and a hard copy is received by the Commission within three (3) days of the email filing.

Settlement

All parties are encouraged to cooperate and engage in negotiations; however, the conduct of negotiations does not relieve the parties of their obligation to meet filing deadlines.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Hearing Officer that the proposed procedural schedule set forth herein be, and is hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadlines and requirements established in this order and attached hereto are hereby adopted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 25th day of June, 2018.

By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Landis", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank Landis
HEARING OFFICER