

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 AND SCHEDULING
natural gas public utilities.)	HEARING
)	
)	Entered: May 3, 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.

A planning conference was held on May 2, 2018. Commissioner Frank Landis, Ms. Nichole Mulcahy, and Ms. Sallie Dietrich appeared on behalf of the Commission. Mr. William Austin appeared for the Public Advocate, with Ms. Donna Mullinax also appearing for the Public Advocate telephonically. Mr. Adam Buhrman and Mr. Doug Law appeared on behalf of the two Black Hills Energy entities (collectively "Black Hills"). Mr. Jerom Janulewicz appeared telephonically on behalf of the City of Grand Island. Mr. Michael Tye appeared telephonically on behalf of the City of Kearney. Mr. Tim Olson, Ms. Heather Grahame, Ms. Pam Bonrud, and Mr. Aaron Bjorkman appeared telephonically for NorthWestern Energy.

As a result of the planning conference, several issues were decided. This order serves to memorialize those decisions and provide a timeline for proceeding in this docket.

Separate Hearings

The parties advised that the interests of clarity, expediency, and organization of the docket would be best served by holding two hearings in this docket, with one hearing to be held regarding Docket No. NG-0095.1, relating to NorthWestern Energy, and a second hearing to be held in NG-0095.2 and NG-0095.3, relating to both Black Hills entities.

The parties further advised that discussion and negotiations between the Public Advocate and Black Hills have been and are occurring, and that the parties will be prepared for a hearing on **Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.**, with written filings including pre-filed testimony and any stipulations, reports, and proposed notice to customers to be filed with the Commission on or before **Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

The parties further advised that discussion and negotiations between the Cities of Grand Island and Kearney, as well as NorthWestern Energy, are at preliminary stages and the parties are not prepared for a hearing in subdocket NG-0095.1 at this time. The parties to subdocket NG-0095.1 advised their intention to consult among themselves and notify the Commission of how they would like to proceed.

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.

Deadlines

The parties to subdockets NG-0095.2 and NG-0095.3 agreed to file with the Commission any written documents they intend to offer at hearing by **May 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.** The documents to be filed include any pre-filed testimony, reports, stipulations, proposed customer notices, or other documents the parties intend to offer at hearing.

Parties to subdocket NG-0095.1 are hereby requested to provide notice to the Commission regarding how they intend to proceed including whether the parties intend to serve data requests or other discovery, a proposed deadline for written

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filings, a proposed hearing date, and any other information relevant to the procedural scheduling of this matter.

Hearing

A hearing in the two subdockets NG-0095.2 and NG-0095.3, regarding the two Black Hills entities, will be held on **May 30, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. CDT** in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Hearing on the two subdockets will be held concurrently. The parties to these subdockets are advised to appear in person and to be prepared to answer questions regarding their pre-filed testimony or other documents from other parties, from the Commission, and/or from Commission staff.

A hearing in subdocket NG-0095.1, regarding NorthWestern Energy, has not been scheduled. A separate order regarding hearing in this matter will be issued at a later date.

Hearing Fee/Accommodations

The parties have advised that they will arrange for a court reporter for the hearing on this matter. Therefore, the hearing fee of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) for each half-day should be waived consistent with Commission policy.

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 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing in subdockets NG-0095.2 and NG-0095.3 is scheduled for **May 30, 2018, at 11:00**

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

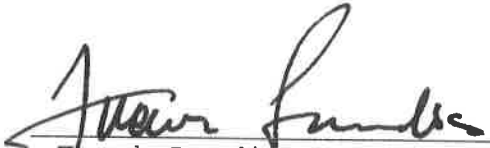
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a.m. CDT in the Commission Hearing Room, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, Lincoln.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 3rd day of May, 2018.

By:


Frank Landis
HEARING OFFICER