

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF NEBRASKA

In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Public) Application No. NG-122
Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern)
Energy, Seeking Approval of a Natural Gas)
Rate Increase.

APPLICATION FOR NATURAL GAS RATE INCREASE

NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern” or “the Company”), pursuant to State Natural Gas Regulation Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 66-1801 *et seq.* (the “Act”) and the Rules and Regulations of the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“NPSC”), NEB. ADMIN. CODE, Title 291, Chapter 9, Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations (“Chapter 9”), applies to adjust the rates for natural gas services provided to NorthWestern’s customers located in the Nebraska communities of North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island, and Alda (“Affected Cities”).

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

NorthWestern Public Service Company was incorporated in Delaware in November 1923 when utility holdings from both South Dakota and Nebraska were merged into one energy utility company. NorthWestern’s presence in Nebraska has evolved since its inception in 1923. Until the late 1930s, NorthWestern was an electric and natural gas utility in Nebraska. With the advent of a public power system in Nebraska, NorthWestern sold its electric utility services to local public power districts and by the early 1940s, had transformed its Nebraska utility business to solely natural gas.

In 1998, NorthWestern Public Service Company became NorthWestern Corporation (“NW Corp”). In February 2002, NW Corp acquired the electric and natural gas transmission and distribution business of the former Montana Power Company. In July 2022, the Nebraska Public Service Commission approved a corporate restructuring of NW Corp to (a) create a new parent holding company and (b) separate NW Corp’s Nebraska and South Dakota utility businesses from its Montana utility business. In October 2023, NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. (“NWE Group”) became the publicly traded, parent holding company of NW Corp. A few months later, in January 2024, NW Corp transferred the Nebraska and South Dakota utility businesses to NorthWestern, and NorthWestern began formal operations of the Nebraska and South Dakota utility businesses as a new, wholly owned, direct subsidiary of NWE Group. NW Corp continues to operate the Montana utility business. NWE Group currently has approximately 1,573 employees within its three-state service territory.

Attachment A is an organizational chart of the complete corporate structure for NorthWestern Energy Group Inc. (“NWE Group”) as of May 23, 2024. NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation (“NorthWestern”) owns and operates NorthWestern Energy’s Nebraska and South Dakota public utility assets. As depicted in the organizational chart shown in Attachment A, NorthWestern is a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of NWE-Group, the publicly traded parent holding company (Nasdaq: NWE).

As of today, NorthWestern provides natural gas distribution services to the Affected Cities, serving 43,147 customers. NorthWestern has 33 employees in Nebraska, with area offices in North Platte, Grand Island, and Kearney. It also provides natural gas and electric utility services to approximately 49,900 natural gas customers and 64,800 electric customers in South Dakota.

II. CONTACT INFORMATION

Communications regarding this Application should be directed to:

Cynthia S. Fang
Vice President -- Regulatory Affairs
NorthWestern Energy
208 N Montana Avenue, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-8114
cyndee.fang@northwestern.com

With a copy to each of the following:

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Director – Government
and Regulatory Affairs
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Jeffrey Decker
Lead Regulatory Specialist
NorthWestern Energy
600 Market Street West
Huron, SD 57103
(605) 353-8315
jeff.decker@northwestern.com

III. RATIONALE FOR RATE ADJUSTMENT AND RATE STRUCTURE

NorthWestern last negotiated a natural gas rate adjustment with its Nebraska communities in 2007 using 2006 test year data. The settlement agreement between NorthWestern and the Affected Cities was approved by the NPSC in Docket NG-0048.

In Nebraska, NorthWestern uses only one rate area for the Affected Cities it serves. NEB. REV. STAT. §66-1838(10)(b) allows NorthWestern to seek interim rate recovery. NorthWestern does plan to implement interim rates at this time depending on the status of direct negotiations with the cities. If interim rates are implemented, NorthWestern does not anticipate implementing interim rates prior to October 1, 2024.

The current Nebraska rate structure does not allow NorthWestern to adequately recover its cost of doing business. Since 2007, NorthWestern has experienced the same inflationary pressure that any other Nebraska enterprise or citizen has experienced. Costs associated with purchasing pipe, buying fuel for its vehicles, employee compensation and benefits, as well as a host of other expenses have increased without any adjustment to NorthWestern's rate recovery mechanisms.

NorthWestern is also seeing the effect of decreased revenue generation from residential customers while its costs to do business continue to increase. As residential customers become more knowledgeable about energy efficiency, replace older heating equipment with more efficient models, or make the switch to electric heating, the basic costs of maintaining utility infrastructure remain while trying to recover those costs through decreased use of natural gas – directly impacting NorthWestern's rate recovery mechanism. With effective internal control mechanisms, NorthWestern has been able to weather these rising costs with decreasing rate revenues, but can no longer do so without being given the ability to have a fair and reasonable return on its Nebraska infrastructure investments.

With this Application for a natural gas rate adjustment, NorthWestern is able to demonstrate that it requires an additional \$3,561,279 in base rate recovery. This amounts to an overall increase of 5.94% in customer bills. When this request is broken into our residential customer base and commercial customer base, it will equate to a proposed increase of 7.44% for our residential customers and 3.66% for our commercial accounts.

NorthWestern's current debt to equity ratio stands at 46.87% to 53.13%. NorthWestern is seeking a rate of return on rate base of 7.75% and a return on equity of 10.70%. This compares to the 2007 negotiated return on rate base of 8.49% and a return on equity of 10.40%.

IV. RULE 004 GENERAL RATE FILING REQUIREMENTS

In support of its Application, and pursuant to Rule 004 of Chapter 9 of the NPSC's Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations, NorthWestern hereby submits the following information that can be found in the attachments submitted herewith, some of which are under separate cover and marked "CONFIDENTIAL" pursuant to the Motion for Protective Order filed concurrently with this Application:

- A description of the base year and test year. The base year is calendar year 2023. The test year includes adjustments as shown on Schedules 1.1 and 1.2 of Exhibit JJD-1.
- A financial summary showing aggregate amounts for rate base, operating expenses, and rate of return for the base year and test year, plus operating revenue calculated using natural gas rates currently in effect and as proposed. See Schedule No. 1 of Exhibit JJD-1.
- Rate-base schedules showing beginning and ending balances for the base year and test year of:
 - Utility plant (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 9.1) and accumulated depreciation and amortization (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 9.4) showing the balances by functional account totals;
 - Working capital, showing the manner in which it is calculated (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 9.5);
 - Other rate-base components, and
 - Allocated rate-base components showing the manner in which the components are calculated (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 9.5).
- Operating expense schedules for the base year and test year (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 4).
- Rate-of-return and cost-of-capital schedules showing:
 - Long-term debt and common equity amounts, ratios, and percentage cost rates for the base year and test year (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 9.2).
- Operating revenue schedules showing: (Exhibit JJD-1, Schedule No. 2)
 - Number and classification of customers, volume of sales, and operating revenue by customer classes for the base year on an unadjusted basis; and
- Number and classification of customers, volume of sales, and operating

revenue by customer classes for the test year on a normalized basis:

- Using current rates; and
 - Using proposed rates.
-
- A copy of the most recent annual report to stockholders can be found at:

https://northwesternenergy.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/about-us/investors/annual-reports/annual_report_2023.pdf

V. MUNICIPAL AND CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

In accordance with NEB. REV. STAT. § 66-1838, NorthWestern seeks to negotiate its natural gas rate adjustment directly with the Affected Cities: Alda, Grand Island, Kearney, and North Platte. Simultaneous with the filing of this Application with the NPSC, letters have been sent to each of the Affected Cities notifying each of the natural gas rate Application filing with the NPSC and NorthWestern's intention to negotiate directly with them. Included with the notification letters are copies of the Application in electronic format for use by each of the Affected Cities. NorthWestern will provide Affected Cities who request paper copies of the Application for the natural gas rate increase, in accordance with NEB. REV. STAT § 66-1838(2). Notice of the filing of the Application is also being sent to each Nebraska customer as a bill insert for the June 2024 billing cycles. A copy of the customer bill insert is included with this Application and has been provided to the community leaders as a part of their formal notification. A media announcement of the Application is also being distributed in concurrence with the submittal to the NPSC.

Prior to formally filing with the NPSC, NorthWestern representatives contacted the mayor or city administrator for each of the Affected Cities in May 2024 to discuss NorthWestern's intent to file an application seeking a natural gas rate adjustment on June 6, 2024. NorthWestern sought to inform its community leaders in advance of the Application being filed as part of its continued commitment to maintain open communications with its Affected Cities and customers.

VI. TARIFF CHANGES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

In support of its Application, and pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. § 66-1838, NorthWestern hereby submits proposed revisions to its tariff, implementing its proposed rate change, and other changes requested in this Application. The revised sections of the tariff are attached hereto.

VII. TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

In support of its Application, NorthWestern submits the attached pre-filed direct testimony and accompanying exhibits of the following individuals:

Brian Bird, President and CEO

Company Policy

Emilie Ng, Treasurer	Capital Structure
Jeff Berzina, Controller	Accounting – Known & Measurable
Brad Wenande, Director SD/NE Operations	Distribution Operations
Jeff Decker, Lead Regulatory Specialist	Class Cost of Service & Rate Design
John Spanos, Consultant	Depreciation Rates
Adrien McKenzie, Consultant	Cost of Capital

VIII. PROTECTIVE ORDER/AGREEMENT

NorthWestern further notifies the NPSC that concurrent with the filing of this Application it has filed a request for “Protective Order” as required under NPSC Rule 006 of Chapter 9 of the NPSC’s Natural Gas and Pipeline Rules and Regulations to cover confidential information that will supplement its Application and to cover any confidential materials submitted in NorthWestern’s work papers, testimony, or exhibits that will be filed throughout the docket. *See* NEB. ADMIN. CODE, Title 291, Chapter 9, Rule 006.

IX. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, NorthWestern requests that the NPSC issue an order accepting and approving this Application for Rate Increase, including the proposed rate schedules included herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

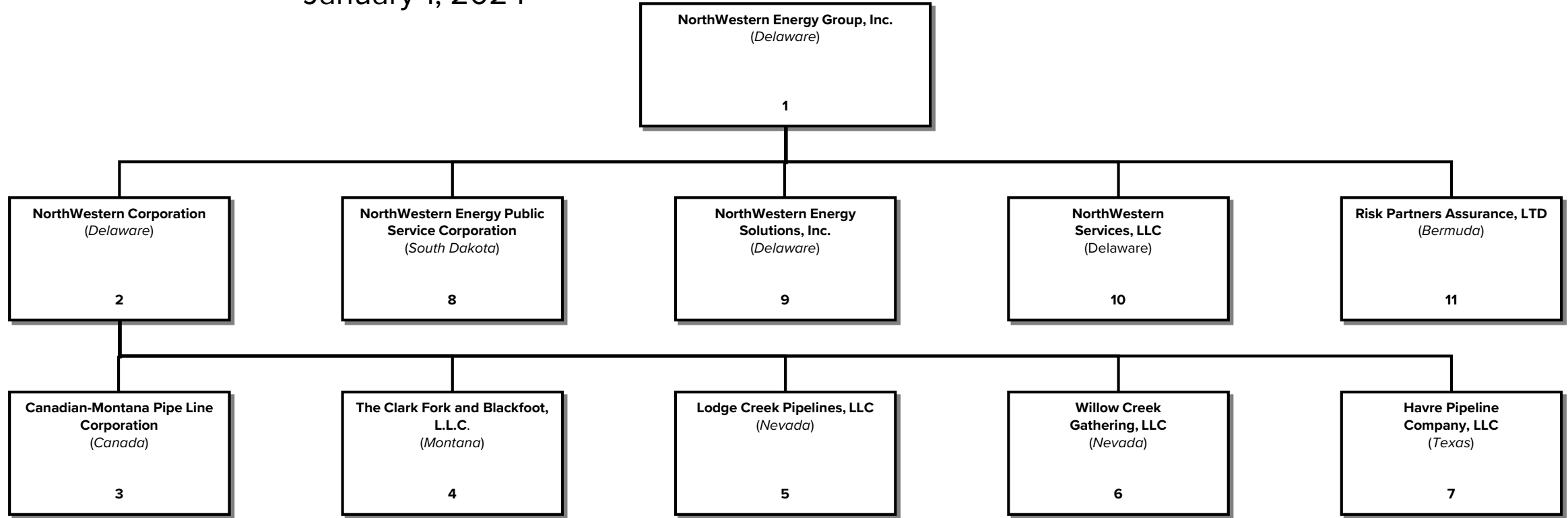
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY
PUBLIC SERVICE
CORPORATION, D/B/A
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

By: REMBOLT LUDTKE LLP
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1128 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
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(402) 475-5100

By: /s/ Andrew S. Pollock
Andrew S. Pollock (#19872)
apollock@remboltlawfirm.com
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akost@remboltlawfirm.com

NWE Corporate Structure

January 1, 2024



1 NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., parent holding company (Nasdaq: NWE).

2 NorthWestern Corporation holds the MT public utility operations.

3 Canadian-Montana Pipe Line Corporation owns a natural gas pipeline that crosses the Canadian border.

4 The Clark Fork and Blackfoot, L.L.C. owned the Milltown Dam facility in Montana (dam has been dismantled).

5 Lodge Creek Pipelines, LLC owns a natural gas gathering system in northern Montana.

6 Willow Creek Gathering, LLC owns a natural gas gathering system in northern Montana.

7 Havre Pipeline Company, LLC owns a natural gas transmission and gathering system in northern Montana. (NorthWestern Corporation holds a 96%+ ownership interest in this entity).

8 NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation holds the NE/SD public utility operations.

9 NorthWestern Energy Solutions, Inc., holds unregulated investments.

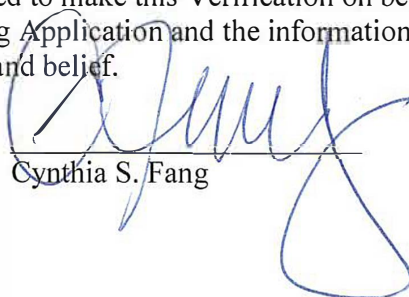
10 NorthWestern Services, LLC, owns limited unregulated assets in SD.

11 Risk Partners Assurance, Ltd. is our captive insurer (for old claims related to Blue Dot and two other former subsidiaries).

STATE OF NEBRASKA
BEFORE THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF MONTANA)
) SS VERIFICATION
COUNTY OF LEWIS and CLARK)

CYNTHIA S. FANG, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that: (1) she is the Vice President Regulatory Affairs of NorthWestern Public Service Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, and is authorized to make this Verification on behalf of such Company; and (2) she has read the foregoing Application and the information set forth therein is true to the best of her knowledge and belief.

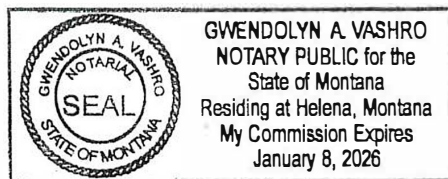


Cynthia S. Fang

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 23rd day of May, 2024

 Gwendolyn A. Vashro
Notary Public, Montana
My Commission Expires:

(Seal)



NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR GENERAL RATE INCREASE

All applications for a general rate increase must include a completed copy of this information packet.

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:

Docket Number:

Date filed:

Date published:

Caption:

1. Name of Utility: NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation

a. d/b/a: NorthWestern Energy

2. Headquarters Address:

3010 W. 69th Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

3. Mailing address, if different:

4. Communication regarding the application should be addressed to: (maximum three):

Name:	Cynthia S. Fang	
Phone Number:	406-444-8114	
Email Address:	Cyndee.fang@northwestern.com	
Mailing address (if different from utility):	208 N Montana Avenue, Suite 200 Helena, MT 59601	

Name:	Pamela A. Bonrud	
Phone Number:	605-978-2900	
Email Address:	Pam.bonrud@northwestern.com	
Mailing address (if different from utility):		

Name:	Jeff Decker	
Phone Number:	605-353-8315	
Email Address:	Jeffrey.decker@northwestern.com	
Mailing address (if different from utility):	PO Box 1318 Huron, SD 57350	

APPLICATION INFORMATION

RATE BASE

1. Beginning and ending dates of base test year: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023
2. Rate base for base test year: \$47,720,488
3. Total pro forma adjustments for known and measurable changes to rate base sought: Reduction of \$312,227.
4. Amount of capital investment made by company since the last rate case included in case: Approximately \$40,000,000.
5. Total adjusted test year rate base sought: \$47,408,262

- a. Amount of rate base increase, in dollars: \$23,111,378
- b. Amount of rate base increase, as a percentage: 95%

RATE OF RETURN

- 6. Current overall Rate of Return on Rate Base: 2.25% normalized
- 7. Most recently authorized overall Rate of Return: 8.49%
- 8. Current capital structure: 50.00% Equity / 50.00% Debt
- 9. Currently authorized Return on Equity: 10.40% Cost of Debt: 3.29%
- 10. Current Weighted Average Cost of Capital: 5.20%
- 11. Proposed Capital Structure: 53.13% Equity / 46.87% Debt
- 12. Proposed Return on Equity: 10.70% Cost of Debt: 2.07%
- 13. Proposed Weighted Average Cost of Capital: 5.68%
- 14. Proposed Overall Rate of Return: 7.75%

REVENUE REQUIREMENT

- 15. Current jurisdictional annual revenue, in dollars: \$59,912,320 normalized
- 16. Requested jurisdictional revenue, in dollars: \$63,473,599
 - a. Amount of increase, in dollars: \$3,561,279
 - b. Amount of increase, as a percentage of current jurisdictional revenue: 5.94%

CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 17. Anticipated residential customer impact
 - a. Amount of average annual increase, in dollars: \$71.23
 - b. Annual percentage increase over current rates: 7.44%
 - c. Average monthly summer bill impact: July bill = 13 therms
 - i. dollars: \$3.43
 - ii. percentage: 13.52%
 - d. Average monthly winter bill impact: January bill = 142 therms
 - i. dollars: \$10.04

ii. percentage: 5.60%

18. Anticipated commercial customer impact

- a. Amount of average annual increase, in dollars: \$170.65
- b. Annual percentage increase over current rates: 3.66%
- c. Average monthly summer bill impact: Rate 92 July bill = 53 therms
 - i. dollars: \$4.56 ii. percentage: 6.27%
- d. Average monthly winter bill impact: Rate 92 January bill = 579 therms
 - i. dollars: \$17.40
 - ii. percentage: 2.48%

19. List any additional surcharges/riders requested in this application below.

<u>App Cite</u>	<u>Surcharge/Rider</u>	<u>Amount & Frequency</u>	<u>Duration of Surcharge/Rider</u>	<u>Number of Impacted Customers</u>
	None			

20. Please attach a description of proposed rate structure, including a list of customer classes, and current and proposed rates by class (1 page or less).

See Attachment A.

21. Does the Company intend to implement interim rates pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 661838(10)(a)?

- a. NorthWestern does plan to implement interim rates at this time depending on the status of direct negotiations with the cities.
- b. If yes, what percentage of the increase sought will be implemented in interim rates?
75%
- c. b. Date of implementation: If interim rates are implemented, NorthWestern does not anticipate implementing interim rates prior to October 1, 2024.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Commission regulations, at 291 Neb. Admin. Code § 9-004, require the following information. Please list the exhibit(s) where each item can be found and sponsoring witness:

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Exhibit Number & Witness</u>
9-004.02A: A description of the base year and test year	Exhibit JJD-1 Witness Decker
9-004.02B: A description of the proposed revenue increase, number and classifications of affected rate payers, average per rate payer increase, volumes per classification, and reasons for proposed increase	Summary discussed in Application For Natural Gas Rate Increase
9-004.02C: Financial summary	JJD-1, Sch. No. 1 Witness Decker
9-004.02D: Diagram and description of corporate structure, affiliates, and shared resource affiliates	Diagram shown in Application for Natural Gas Rate Increase as Attachment A.
9-004.02E: Financial statements for the most recent fiscal year	JJD-1 Statements A – C Witness Decker
9-004.02F: The most recent annual report to stockholders	Link shown in Section IV of Application for Natural Gas Rate Increase
9-004.02G: A list of witnesses and subjects on which they are to provide testimony	Brian Bird Testimony
9-004.03: Rate Base Schedules	JJD-1, Sch. No. 9 Witness Decker
9-004.04: Operating Expense Schedules	JJD-1, Sch. No. 4 Witness Decker

9-004.05: Rate of Return and Cost of Capital Schedules	JJD-1, Sch. No. 9.2 Witness Decker
9-004.06: Revenue Schedules	JJD-1, Sch. No. 2 Witness Decker
9-004.07: Cost of Service Study	JJD-2 Witness Decker
9-004.08: Prefiled Direct Testimony and Exhibits	Testimony – Bird Testimony - Spanos Exhibits JJS-1, JJS-2 Testimony - McKenzie Exhibit AMM-1-11 Testimony – Berzina Exhibits JBB-1, JBB-2, JBB-3 Testimony – Wenande Testimony – Decker Exhibits JDD-1, JJD-2, JJD-3, JJD-4 Testimony – Ng

NorthWestern Energy
Summary Rate Comparison

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Rate 91 - Residential</u>		
Customer Charge	\$8.00	\$10.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
First 30 therms	\$0.25283	\$0.36164
Over 30 therms	\$0.09513	\$0.13613
Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$0.00380
<u>Rate 92 - Small Commercial</u>		
Customer Charge	\$9.00	\$11.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
First 400 therms	\$0.13332	\$0.16142
Next 1,600 therms	\$0.06343	\$0.07703
Over 2,000 therms	\$0.03743	\$0.04543
Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$0.00380
<u>Rate 93 - Irrigation</u>		
Customer Charge	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
All therms	\$0.10574	\$0.11952
Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$0.00380
<u>Rate 94 - Large Commercial Firm</u>		
Customer Charge	\$80.00	\$100.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
All therms	\$0.05911	\$0.09212
Demand Charge (firm demand therms)	\$0.24590	\$0.00000
Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$0.00380
<u>Rate 95 - Interruptible</u>		
Customer Charge	\$70.00	\$100.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
All therms	\$0.05911	\$0.09212
Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$0.00380
<u>Rate 97 - Transport</u>		
Customer Charge	\$116.90	\$150.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
All therms	\$0.05911	\$0.09212
*Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$17.37
<u>Rate 99 - Large Transport</u>		
Customer Charge	\$330.00	\$350.00
<u>Distribution Delivery Charge</u>		
All therms	\$0.05911	\$0.09212
*Economic Development Surcharge	\$0.00254	\$17.37

* Surcharge is proposed to be a fixed monthly charge as opposed to volumetric



CUSTOMER NOTICE

NATURAL GAS

RATE INCREASE

NorthWestern Energy submitted an application to the Nebraska Public Service Commission, the cities of North Platte, Kearney, and Grand Island, and the village of Alda for a regulatory rate review of our natural gas rates. Current NorthWestern Energy Nebraska natural gas rates were set using cost information from 2006.

Since then, NorthWestern Energy has invested almost \$40 million in our Nebraska natural gas infrastructure to continue our commitment to providing reliable energy service at the most affordable rates possible to our customers.

Recent investments include:

- Looping of Grand Island and Kearney pipeline facilities
- North Platte alley meter moves
- Grand Island office and warehouse
- Automated Meter Reading technology to replace manually read meters

NorthWestern Energy is requesting a 5.94% increase, or \$3.56 million, in our Nebraska natural gas revenues.

For a typical natural gas residential customer using 100 therms per month, the rate increase, if approved by the cities and the Nebraska Public Service Commission, would mean a monthly bill increase of \$8.26, or 6.35%.

NorthWestern Energy is asking for the regulatory rate review to ensure our customers will continue to be served by a financially sound company with access to low-cost capital. This will allow us to continue efficient investments that provide reliable, safe energy service for our customers.

We recognize that our rate request will impact our customers during a period when other prices are also increasing. NorthWestern Energy is committed to helping customers who may be struggling with their bills. Customers concerned about their ability to pay their energy bill can contact NorthWestern Energy for information about energy assistance programs and to arrange flexible payment options.

NorthWestern Energy also helps customers with access to critical government and community assistance funding programs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and ACCESSNebraska, which is administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

NorthWestern Energy expects to negotiate with North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island and Alda and submit an agreement to the Nebraska Public Service Commission for review and a decision.

If an agreement is not reached, the Nebraska Public Service Commission will review NorthWestern Energy's application for a regulatory rate review.

There are many options available to participate in the natural gas regulatory rate review process.

You can view the actual rate case filing online at **www.NorthWesternEnergy.com/NebraskaRateReview** and/or at the Nebraska Public Service Commission Web site: **<https://psc.nebraska.gov/natural-gas/natural-gas-information>**

Copies of the filing will also be available to look at in-person at each of our office locations.

If you have any questions about our natural gas service or the proposed rate increase, please call our customer service number at 800-245-6977.

Esta información está disponible en español previa solicitud.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NATURAL GAS RATE SCHEDULE
for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 1
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1

CLASS OF SERVICE: Residential Gas Service **Rate No. 91**
RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available to domestic customers whose maximum requirements for natural gas are not more than 200 therms per day. The nameplate input ratings of all gas burning equipment shall be used to determine a customer's maximum requirements, based on 10 hours use per day.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

<i>Customer Charge</i> per Meter:	\$ 10.00
<i>Non-Gas Commodity Charge:</i>	
First 30 therms, per therm	\$ 0.36164
Over 30 therms, per therm	\$ 0.13613
<i>Standby Capacity Charge - December through March:</i>	\$ 12.00
<i>City Approved Economic Development Surcharge</i>	\$ 0.00380

Minimum Monthly Bill: \$ 10.00

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Other Provisions

The Standby Charge is applicable to customers using service pursuant to this schedule as a backup fuel source to an alternately fueled heating system. This charge is not applicable where natural gas service is the primary heating fuel source.

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions.

Date Filed: June 6, 2024

Effective Date: October 1, 2024

Issued By: Jeffrey Decker, Regulatory Department
Phone (605) 353-8315

NPSC Received 06/06/2024

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NATURAL GAS RATE SCHEDULE
for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 2
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 2

CLASS OF SERVICE: General Gas Service Rate No. 92
RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available to non-residential customers whose maximum requirements for natural gas are not more than 200 therms per day. If no historical peak day usage is available, the nameplate input ratings of all gas burning equipment shall be used to determine a customer's maximum requirements.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

<i>Customer Charge</i> per Meter:	\$ 11.00
<i>Non-Gas Commodity Charge:</i>	
First 400 therms, per therm	\$ 0.16142
Next 1,600 therms, per therm	\$ 0.07703
Over 2,000 therms, per therm	\$ 0.04543
<i>Standby Capacity Charge - December through March:</i>	\$ 37.00
<i>City Approved Economic Development Surcharge</i>	\$ 0.00380

Minimum Monthly Bill: \$ 11.00

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Other Provisions

The Standby Charge is applicable to customers using service pursuant to this schedule as a backup fuel source to an alternately fueled heating system. This charge is not applicable where natural gas service is the primary heating fuel source.

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions.

Date Filed: June 6, 2024

Effective Date: October 1, 2024

Issued By: Jeffrey Decker, Regulatory Department
Phone (605) 353-8315

NPSC Received 06/06/2024

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NATURAL GAS RATE SCHEDULE
for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

Section No. 3
3rd Revised Sheet No. 3
Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 3

CLASS OF SERVICE: Commercial and Industrial **Rate No. 94**
RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available for firm gas volumes, to commercial and industrial customers who may also require volumes of interruptible gas in excess of firm daily demand volumes .

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

Customer Charge per Meter: \$ 100.00

Non-Gas Commodity Charge:

All use, per therm \$ 0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge \$ 0.00380

Minimum Monthly Bill - Amount for therms of demand billed and the customer charge

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Penalty Provision

If the customer takes unauthorized gas during the periods of curtailment, a penalty of \$3.00 per therm shall be paid to the Company in addition to the commodity rate specified herein. In addition, the new daily use may then become the daily firm demand in place of the previous demand determined by the customer and cannot be reduced by the customer for a period of twelve months.

5. Other Provisions

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions and the following provisions:

1. Daily firm demand shall be assigned by the Company based on 1) a 24 hour cold day read or 2) if a 24 hour cold day read is not available, the daily average of the customer's highest usage month, or 3) in the instance of a customer new to the system, the firm demand will be established based on an agreed upon connected load between the Company and the customer, and will be updated with items 1) or 2) as the information becomes available.

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**NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NATURAL GAS RATE SCHEDULE
for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 4
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 4

CLASS OF SERVICE: Commercial and Industrial – Interruptible

**Rate Nos. 93 & 95
Irrigation Service - 93
Standard Service - 95**

1. Applicability

Gas service under this rate schedule is available on an interruptible basis to any customer for commercial and industrial or irrigation purposes, provided that the customer's premises are adjacent to the Company's mains and that the capacity of the Company's system and the supply of gas available to it from its supplier is in excess of the requirements of its existing customers.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

Customer Charge per Meter:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.00
Standard Service – 95	\$ 100.00

Non-Gas Commodity Charge all use, per therm:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.11952
Standard Service - 95	\$ 0.09212

<i>City Approved Economic Development Surcharge</i>	\$ 0.00380
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Minimum Monthly Bill:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.00
Standard Service – 95	\$ 100.00

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Procedure For Curtailment Of Service

Service rendered under this rate schedule shall be subject to curtailment by the Company in accordance with the priority guidelines as established by the Federal Regulatory Commission.

5. Penalty Provision

If Customer fails to comply with Company's request to curtail the use of gas, then all unauthorized gas so used shall be "Penalty Gas" and be paid for by the Customer at a rate based on the maximum penalty charges permitted to be made by the Company's supplier for takes of natural gas, in addition to the regular commodity charge for such gas.

(continued)

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for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 6
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 6

CLASS OF SERVICE: Interruptible Transportation Service

RATE No. 97

APPLICABILITY

This schedule is available to interruptible customers who have requirements less than 500 therms per day and who have made arrangements to have natural gas other than the Company's normal pipeline supply delivered to a Company town border station.

TERRITORY

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

RATE

Customer charge per month \$ 150.00

Negotiated Rate Not to Exceed the Non-Gas Transportation Rate (Rate 94) \$ 0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge(per customer) \$ 17.37
(Includes Kearney, North Platte and Grand Island. Alda is excluded.)

Minimum Charge Customer Charge

Adjustment Clauses

- a. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1).

OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The customer shall sign a Transportation Service Agreement, which shall include the following:
 - a. The customer shall, as directed, curtail or discontinue the use of natural gas upon two (2) hours notice by the Company;
 - b. The customer shall provide and maintain suitable and adequate standby facilities and have, at all times, adequate standby fuel to maintain continuous plant operation during periods of curtailment in the delivery of natural gas hereunder;

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Section No. 3
1st Revised Sheet No. 6.5
Canceling Original Sheet No. 6.5

CLASS OF SERVICE: Large Customer Transportation Service

RATE No. 99

APPLICABILITY

This schedule is available to firm or interruptible customers who have annual average requirements greater than 500 therms per day and who have made arrangements to have natural gas other than the Company's normal pipeline supply (rates 91, 92, 94 and 95) delivered to a Company town border station.

TERRITORY

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

RATE

Customer charge per month – negotiated rate not to exceed* \$ 350.00

Non-Gas Transportation Rate (Rate 94)*

Negotiated Rate Per Therm Not to Exceed \$ 0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge(per customer)

\$ 17.37

(Includes Kearney, North Platte and Grand Island. Alda is excluded.)

Construction Surcharge – All customers requiring utility construction will be required to pay a surcharge sufficient to recover all related construction and capital costs, including related overhead, allowed return, and applicable federal and state taxes, divided by the contract term divided by projected volumes.

Minimum Charge

Customer Charge

*In no event shall the demand charge (if applicable), plus the total of the customer charge and the revenue from the transportation rate, be less than the incremental cost of serving each customer in this class.

Adjustment Clauses

- a. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1).
- b. Purchased Gas Supply (Firm Supply Customers Only)

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for
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

Section No. 4
2nd Revised Sheet No. 2
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 2

(continued)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO OCCUPY

In case the Customer is not the owner of the premises or of the intervening property between the premises and the Company's lines, the Customer will obtain from the property owner(s) the necessary consent to install and maintain in said premises all such gas equipment as is necessary or convenient for supplying gas to the Customer.

ACCESS TO PREMISES

The Company has the right to access to the Customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of installing, reading, inspecting, or repairing any meters, devices and other equipment used in connection or disconnection of any or all service equipment, for the purpose of removing its property, and for all other proper purposes. In addition, the Company may require the customer, Landlord or representative (at least the legal age of majority), be present when performing work inside a customer's facility.

Access to the meter is required for the Company to read the meter. If access is not provided, the Company may estimate the billing for up to three consecutive months. The Company will notify the Customer upon each unsuccessful attempt to access the meter. If access has not been provided at the end of the three consecutive month period, the Company may charge a \$20 Special Access Fee, in order to secure an actual read of the meter.

PROTECTION OF COMPANY'S PROPERTY

The Customer will properly protect the Company's property on the Customer's premises from loss or damage and will permit no one who is not an agent of the Company to remove or tamper with the Company's property.

METERING

The service used will be measured by a meter or meters to be furnished and installed by the Company at its own expense and upon the registration of said meters all bills will be calculated. If more than one meter is installed on different classes of service (each class being charged for at different rates) each meter will be considered by itself in calculating the amount of any bill, except as otherwise provided on a specific rate schedule. Meters include all measuring instruments.

BYPASSING OR TAMPERING WITH METERING FACILITIES

Customers shall not interfere in any way with the metering facilities after they have been set in place. In cases where the meter seal is broken or the working parts of the meter have been tampered with or the meter damaged or there is evidence that a bypass has been used, the Utility may render a bill for the current billing period based upon the estimated use, considering past experience under similar conditions and may, in addition thereto, charge for the actual cost of repairing or replacing said meter and connections. An additional fee of \$100 may be charged in instances where a customer has tampered with the meter, including reconnecting service without permission from Company. Service may be discontinued or refused at the premises where such bypassing or tampering has occurred until all such charges are paid. Legal action may also be pursued in the instance of meter tampering.

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Section No. 4
1st Revised Sheet No. 3
Canceling Original Sheet No. 3

(continued)

SUBMETERING

Submetering will not be permitted unless it is at the same premises and either the Customer or the Company have compelling reasons for not combining the existing services into one service and one meter. Under no circumstances shall a Customer's fuel piping cross a public street or alley.

MASTER METERING

All buildings, mobile home parks, and trailer courts for which construction was begun after June 13, 1980, shall be metered separately for each residential or commercial unit, with the exception of hospitals, nursing homes, transient hotels and motels, dormitories, campgrounds, other residential facilities of a purely transient nature, central heating or cooling systems, central ventilating systems, central hot water systems, residential multiple occupancy buildings constructed, owned or operated with funds appropriated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development or any other federal or state government agency. Any existing multiple occupancy building receiving master metered service which is substantially remodeled or renovated for continued use as a multiple occupancy building shall be individually metered unless the owner of such building demonstrates that conversion from master metering to individual metering would be impractical, uneconomical, or unfeasible.

MONTHLY BILLS

- (a) Bills for service will be rendered monthly unless otherwise applied.
- (b) Failure to receive a bill in no way exempts Customers from the provisions of these Terms and Conditions.
- (c) The Company will attempt to read a meter at least bi-monthly, and any billings between actual readings or when the Company is unable to read a meter after a reasonable effort has been made will be based upon prior usage, adjusted for weather conditions.
- (d) To the rates herein set forth, the Company may add all or any part of any special charge or special tax now imposed upon the Company by any governmental authority, or any new, special, or additional charge or tax which might be imposed as a result of laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances which may be amended, changed, adopted, or enacted by any governmental authority subsequent to the effective date hereof.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Bills will be due upon receipt; timely payment may be made up until the 20th day. On the 20th day after billing, an account with an unpaid balance of \$5.00 or more will be considered late and a late payment charge will apply. The late payment charge shall be 1% of the unpaid balance plus a collection charge of \$2.00. Where a Customer is disconnected for nonpayment of a bill, a reconnection charge will be made in accordance with currently effective Company Re-Connection Policy. There will be a charge of \$25.00 for any check or draft submitted to the Company for payment which is dishonored or returned by the financial institution on which it is drawn.

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Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 1
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1

CLASS OF SERVICE: Residential Gas Service Rate No. 91
RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available to domestic customers whose maximum requirements for natural gas are not more than 200 therms per day. The nameplate input ratings of all gas burning equipment shall be used to determine a customer's maximum requirements, based on 10 hours use per day.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

<i>Customer Charge</i> per Meter:	\$ 8.00 <u>10.00</u>
<i>Non-Gas Commodity Charge:</i>	
First 30 therms, per therm	\$ 0.252830 <u>0.36164</u>
Over 30 therms, per therm	\$ 0.095130 <u>0.13613</u>
<i>Standby Capacity Charge - December through March:</i>	\$ 12.00
<i>City Approved Economic Development Surcharge</i>	\$ 0.002540 <u>0.00380</u>

Minimum Monthly Bill: \$ ~~8.00~~10.00

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Other Provisions

The Standby Charge is applicable to customers using service pursuant to this schedule as a backup fuel source to an alternately fueled heating system. This charge is not applicable where natural gas service is the primary heating fuel source.

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions.

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Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 2
 Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 2

CLASS OF SERVICE: General Gas Service Rate No. 92
 RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available to non-residential customers whose maximum requirements for natural gas are not more than 200 therms per day. If no historical peak day usage is available, the nameplate input ratings of all gas burning equipment shall be used to determine a customer's maximum requirements.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

Customer Charge per Meter: \$ ~~9.00~~11.00

Non-Gas Commodity Charge:

First 400 therms, per therm \$ ~~0.133320~~.16142

Next 1,600 therms, per therm \$ ~~0.063430~~.07703

Over 2,000 therms, per therm \$ ~~0.037430~~.04543

Standby Capacity Charge - December through March: \$ 37.00

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge \$ ~~0.002540~~.00380

Minimum Monthly Bill: \$ ~~9.00~~11.00

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Other Provisions

The Standby Charge is applicable to customers using service pursuant to this schedule as a backup fuel source to an alternately fueled heating system. This charge is not applicable where natural gas service is the primary heating fuel source.

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions.

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Section No. 3
3rd Revised Sheet No. 3
 Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 3

CLASS OF SERVICE: Commercial and Industrial **Rate No. 94**
RATE DESIGNATION: Firm Sales

1. Applicability

This rate is available for firm gas volumes, to commercial and industrial customers who may also require volumes of interruptible gas in excess of firm daily demand volumes .

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

Customer Charge per Meter: \$ ~~80.00~~100.00

Demand Charge:

~~Per therm daily firm demand~~
~~1st 500 therms/day (never less than 50 therms) \$ 0.24590~~
~~Over 500 therms/day \$ 0.00000~~

Non-Gas Commodity Charge:

All use, per therm \$ ~~0.05911~~0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge \$ ~~0.002540~~0.00380

Minimum Monthly Bill - Amount for therms of demand billed and the customer charge

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Penalty Provision

If the customer takes unauthorized gas during the periods of curtailment, a penalty of \$3.00 per therm shall be paid to the Company in addition to the commodity rate specified herein. In addition, the new daily use may then become the daily firm demand in place of the previous demand determined by the customer and cannot be reduced by the customer for a period of twelve months.

5. Other Provisions

Service will be furnished under the Company's General Terms and Conditions and the following provisions:

1. Daily firm demand shall be assigned by the Company based on 1) a 24 hour cold day read or 2) if a 24 hour cold day read is not available, the daily average of the customer's highest usage month, or 3) in the instance of a customer new to the system, the firm demand will be established based on an agreed upon connected load between the Company and the customer, and will be updated with items 1) or 2) as the information becomes available.

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	Section No. 3
<u>Canceling</u>	2nd Revised Sheet No. 4
<u>1st Revised</u>	Sheet No. 4
CLASS OF SERVICE: Commercial and Industrial – Interruptible	Rate Nos. 93 & 95
	Irrigation Service - 93
	Standard Service - 95

1. Applicability

Gas service under this rate schedule is available on an interruptible basis to any customer for commercial and industrial or irrigation purposes, provided that the customer’s premises are adjacent to the Company’s mains and that the capacity of the Company’s system and the supply of gas available to it from its supplier is in excess of the requirements of its existing customers.

2. Territory

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

3. Rates

Monthly Charges:

Customer Charge per Meter:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.00
Standard Service – 95	\$ 70.00 <u>100.00</u>

Non-Gas Commodity Charge all use, per therm:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.105740 <u>0.11952</u>
Standard Service - 95	\$ 0.059110 <u>0.09212</u>

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge	\$ 0.002540<u>0.00380</u>
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Minimum Monthly Bill:

Irrigation Service – 93	\$ 0.00
Standard Service – 95	\$ 70.00 <u>100.00</u>

Adjustment Clauses:

- a. Gas Cost Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 7, 7.1)
- b. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply. (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1)

4. Procedure For Curtailment Of Service

Service rendered under this rate schedule shall be subject to curtailment by the Company in accordance with the priority guidelines as established by the Federal Regulatory Commission.

5. Penalty Provision

If Customer fails to comply with Company’s request to curtail the use of gas, then all unauthorized gas so used shall be “Penalty Gas” and be paid for by the Customer at a rate based on the maximum penalty charges permitted to be made by the Company’s supplier for takes of natural gas, in addition to the regular commodity charge for such gas.

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Section No. 3
2nd Revised Sheet No. 6
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 6

CLASS OF SERVICE: **Interruptible Transportation Service**

RATE No. 97

APPLICABILITY

This schedule is available to interruptible customers who have requirements less than 500 therms per day and who have made arrangements to have natural gas other than the Company's normal pipeline supply delivered to a Company town border station.

TERRITORY

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

RATE

Customer charge per month \$ ~~116.90~~ 150.00

Negotiated Rate Not to Exceed the Non-Gas Transportation Rate (Rate 94) \$0.~~05914~~ 0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge(per customer) \$ ~~0.00254~~ 17.37
(Includes Kearney, North Platte and Grand Island. Alda is excluded.)

Minimum Charge

Customer Charge

Adjustment Clauses

- a. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1).

OTHER PROVISIONS

1. The customer shall sign a Transportation Service Agreement, which shall include the following:
 - a. The customer shall, as directed, curtail or discontinue the use of natural gas upon two (2) hours notice by the Company;
 - b. The customer shall provide and maintain suitable and adequate standby facilities and have, at all times, adequate standby fuel to maintain continuous plant operation during periods of curtailment in the delivery of natural gas hereunder;

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Section No. 3
1st Revised Sheet No. 6.5
 Canceling Original Sheet No. 6.5

CLASS OF SERVICE: Large Customer Transportation Service **RATE No. 99**

APPLICABILITY

This schedule is available to firm or interruptible customers who have annual average requirements greater than 500 therms per day and who have made arrangements to have natural gas other than the Company's normal pipeline supply (rates 91, 92, 94 and 95) delivered to a Company town border station.

TERRITORY

The area served with natural gas by the Company in Nebraska.

RATE

Customer charge per month – negotiated rate not to exceed* \$ ~~330.00~~350.00

~~*Demand Charge – Extended Service: (Firm Supply Only)*~~
~~Per therm daily contract demand~~
~~1st 500 therms/day (never less than 50 therms) \$ 0.24590~~
~~Over 500 therms/day \$ 0.00000~~

Non-Gas Transportation Rate (Rate 94)*
 Negotiated Rate Per Therm Not to Exceed \$~~0.05911~~0.09212

City Approved Economic Development Surcharge(per customer) \$ ~~0.00254~~17.37
 (Includes Kearney, North Platte and Grand Island. Alda is excluded.)

Construction Surcharge – All customers requiring utility construction will be required to pay a surcharge sufficient to recover all related construction and capital costs, including related overhead, allowed return, and applicable federal and state taxes, divided by the contract term divided by projected volumes.

Minimum Charge Customer Charge + ~~Demand Charge~~(if applicable)

*In no event shall the demand charge (if applicable), plus the total of the customer charge and the revenue from the transportation rate, be less than the incremental cost of serving each customer in this class.

Adjustment Clauses

- a. BTU Adjustment Clause shall apply (Sheet Nos. 8, 8.1).
- b. Purchased Gas Supply (Firm Supply Customers Only)

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Section No. 4
2nd Revised Sheet No. 2
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 2

(continued)

OWNER'S CONSENT TO OCCUPY

In case the Customer is not the owner of the premises or of the intervening property between the premises and the Company's lines, the Customer will obtain from the property owner(s) the necessary consent to install and maintain in said premises all such gas equipment as is necessary or convenient for supplying gas to the Customer.

ACCESS TO PREMISES

The Company has the right to access to the Customer's premises at all reasonable times for the purpose of installing, reading, inspecting, or repairing any meters, devices and other equipment used in connection or disconnection of any or all service equipment, for the purpose of removing its property, and for all other proper purposes. In addition, the Company may require the customer, Landlord or representative (at least the legal age of majority), be present when performing work inside a customer's facility.

Access to the meter is required for the Company to read the meter. If access is not provided, the Company may estimate the billing for up to three consecutive months. The Company will notify the Customer upon each unsuccessful attempt to access the meter. If access has not been provided at the end of the three consecutive month period, the Company may charge a \$20 Special Access Fee, in order to secure an actual read of the meter.

PROTECTION OF COMPANY'S PROPERTY

The Customer will properly protect the Company's property on the Customer's premises from loss or damage and will permit no one who is not an agent of the Company to remove or tamper with the Company's property.

METERING

The service used will be measured by a meter or meters to be furnished and installed by the Company at its own expense and upon the registration of said meters all bills will be calculated. If more than one meter is installed on different classes of service (each class being charged for at different rates) each meter will be considered by itself in calculating the amount of any bill, except as otherwise provided on a specific rate schedule. Meters include all measuring instruments.

BYPASSING OR TAMPERING WITH METERING FACILITIES

Customers shall not interfere in any way with the metering facilities after they have been set in place. In cases where the meter seal is broken or the working parts of the meter have been tampered with or the meter damaged or there is evidence that a bypass has been used, the Utility may render a bill for the current billing period based upon the estimated use, considering past experience under similar conditions and may, in addition thereto, charge for the actual cost of repairing or replacing said meter and connections. An additional fee of \$100 may be charged in instances where a customer has tampered with the meter, including reconnecting service without permission from Company. Service may be discontinued or refused at the premises where such bypassing or tampering has occurred until all such charges are paid. Legal action may also be pursued in the instance of meter tampering.

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Section No. 4
1st Revised Sheet No. 3
Canceling Original Sheet No. 3

(continued)

SUBMETERING

Submetering will not be permitted unless it is at the same premises and either the Customer or the Company have compelling reasons for not combining the existing services into one service and one meter. Under no circumstances shall a Customer's fuel piping cross a public street or alley.

MASTER METERING

All buildings, mobile home parks, and trailer courts for which construction was begun after June 13, 1980, shall be metered separately for each residential or commercial unit, with the exception of hospitals, nursing homes, transient hotels and motels, dormitories, campgrounds, other residential facilities of a purely transient nature, central heating or cooling systems, central ventilating systems, central hot water systems, residential multiple occupancy buildings constructed, owned or operated with funds appropriated through the Department of Housing and Urban Development or any other federal or state government agency. Any existing multiple occupancy building receiving master metered service which is substantially remodeled or renovated for continued use as a multiple occupancy building shall be individually metered unless the owner of such building demonstrates that conversion from master metering to individual metering would be impractical, uneconomical, or unfeasible.

MONTHLY BILLS

- (a) Bills for service will be rendered monthly unless otherwise applied.
- (b) Failure to receive a bill in no way exempts Customers from the provisions of these Terms and Conditions.
- (c) The Company will attempt to read a meter at least bi-monthly, and any billings between actual readings or when the Company is unable to read a meter after a reasonable effort has been made will be based upon prior usage, adjusted for weather conditions.
- (d) To the rates herein set forth, the Company may add all or any part of any special charge or special tax now imposed upon the Company by any governmental authority, or any new, special, or additional charge or tax which might be imposed as a result of laws, rules, regulations, or ordinances which may be amended, changed, adopted, or enacted by any governmental authority subsequent to the effective date hereof.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Bills will be due upon receipt; timely payment may be made up until the 20th day. On the 20th day after billing, an account with an unpaid balance of \$5.00 or more will be considered late and a late payment charge will apply. The late payment charge shall be 1% of the unpaid balance plus a collection charge of \$2.00. Where a Customer is disconnected for nonpayment of a bill, a reconnection charge will be made in accordance with currently effective Company Re-Connection Policy. There will be a charge of \$25.00 for any check or draft submitted to the Company for payment which is dishonored or returned by the financial institution on which it is drawn.

(continued)

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**Issued By: Jeffrey Decker, Regulatory Department
Phone (605) 353-8315**

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