

G,E-999/AA-87-548ACCEPTING WESTERN GAS UTILITIES, INC.'S 1987 ANNUAL
AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT REPORT

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Review of 1987
Automatic Adjustment of Charges for All Gas
and Electric Utilities

ISSUE DATE: April 5, 1989

DOCKET NO. G,E-999/AA-87-548

ORDER ACCEPTING WESTERN GAS
UTILITIES, INC.'S 1987 ANNUAL
AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT REPORT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Under Minn. Rules, parts 7825.2390 through 7825.3000, regulated utilities may adjust their rates between general rate cases to reflect fluctuations in the prices they pay for gas or electricity purchased for delivery to ratepayers or for fuel purchased to generate electricity for ratepayers. These adjustments are called automatic adjustments, because they normally take effect without prior Commission approval.

Utilities using automatic adjustments are required to make several annual filings providing information on automatic adjustments made during the preceding twelve month period between July 1 and June 30. The Department of Public Service examines all these filings and submits a report and recommendation to the Commission. The Commission normally issues a single Order dealing with the annual reports submitted by all utilities.

On August 30, 1988 the Commission issued its Order on the annual automatic adjustment filings submitted by all utilities for the period between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1987. That Order accepted the annual filings of all companies except Western Gas Utilities, Inc. (Western or the Company). The Order required Western to file an explanation of an apparent over-recovery of gas costs, an explanation and documentation of refund activity during the 12-month reporting period, and the five-year projection of fuel costs required under Minn. Rules, part 7825.2830.

The Company has since made the required filings. The Department of Public Service has examined them and has recommended that the Commission accept them and find Western to be in compliance with the automatic adjustment annual reporting requirements of Minn. Rules, parts 7825.2390 through 7825.3000.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission has examined the filings made by the Company under the August 30 Order and the comments thereon by the Department of Public Service. The Commission concludes that the filings meet the requirements of the August 30 Order and bring the Company into compliance with the annual reporting requirements of Minn. Rules, parts 7825.2390 through 7825.3000 for the 1986-87 reporting year.

ORDER

1. The annual reports filed by Western Gas Utilities, Inc. for the twelve-month period between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1987 are accepted as being in proper form and in general compliance with Minn. Rules, parts 7825.2390 through 7825.3000, and with the Commission Order issued in this docket on August 30, 1988.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)