

G-002/M-89-189ACCEPTING NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY'S GAS UTILITY 1989 ANNUAL CIP FILING, REQUIRING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME

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 Implementation of an
Energy Conservation Improvement Program
for Northern States Power Gas Utility

ISSUE DATE: May 16, 1989

DOCKET NO. G-002/M-89-189

ORDER ACCEPTING NORTHERN
STATES POWER COMPANY'S GAS
UTILITY 1989 ANNUAL CIP FILING,
REQUIRING ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION AND GRANTING
EXTENSION OF TIME

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 1, 1989, Northern States Power Company Gas Utility (NSP or the Company) filed its proposed Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) for 1989 under Minn. Rules, part 7840.0500. As a part of that filing, NSP certified that it had provided notice of the CIP filing to persons on the service list maintained pursuant to the provisions of Minn. Rules, part 7840.0800.

Pursuant to the Commission's October 3, 1988 Order Approving Conservation Improvement Program, Requiring Additional Filings, and Requiring Additional Projects, In the Matter of the Implementation of an Energy Conservation Improvement Program for Northern States Power Company Gas Utility, Docket No. G-002/M-88-254, the Company's May 1, 1989 filing was to include a proposal for a new project serving Commercial and Industrial customers. On April 19, 1989, NSP filed a request for a 90 day extension to file this project.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue before the Commission is whether NSP's filing meets the filing requirements set forth in Minn. Rules, part 7840.0500 and previous Commission orders, and should be accepted as complete.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission has examined the filing and finds it cannot accept it unconditionally because it fails to meet all of the filing requirements set forth in Minn. Rules, part 7840.0500 and previous Commission orders. Areas of deficiency are discussed below.

Minn. Rules, part 7840.0500, D. Five Year Budget Required

NSP must submit a five-year budget for its overall program pursuant to this item.

New Commercial and Industrial Project

The Commission ordered NSP in its October 3, 1988 Order in Docket No. G-002/M-88-254 to file a new commercial and industrial project with this filing. The company is requesting a 90 day extension of time to file this project. The company states that the extension is necessary in order to complete review of results from its Commercial and Industrial End-Use Study and develop the best possible project.

The Commission finds that the Company's request for an extension of time is reasonable and should be granted. The amount of time sought is reasonable. Neither the public interest nor any party's interest will be prejudiced by the delay.

Performance-based payment plan for City of St. Paul Projects

On April 24, 1989, the Commission issued its Order Establishing Performance-Based Disbursement Plan for City of St. Paul Projects in Docket G-002/M-88-254. The Order required NSP to file, in its May 1 annual CIP filing, a description of its performance-based system for paying the City of St. Paul for work performed in the St. Paul CIP projects. NSP noted in the May 1 filing that it would submit a specific plan to the Commission when it had reached agreement with the City on the appropriate terms.

The Commission finds that, in order to give interested parties the opportunity to examine and comment on NSP's specific plan before its implementation, the Company should file its plan within 45 days of the date of the Order.

Comment Period

The Commission finds that the filing's deficiencies are not serious enough to require its rejection. Further, the filing is sufficiently complete to allow parties to make initial comments on it in present form. Therefore, the 30-day comment period provided under Minn. Rules, part 7840.0900, will not be extended.

Effect of the Order

By requiring the additional information described above, the Commission is making no judgement regarding the merit of NSP's proposed program or any individual project. Also, nothing in this Order shall be construed as relieving NSP from providing any further information requested by the Commission or other participants during the CIP review process. The supplementary filing is necessary because of deficiencies in the Company's initial filing. The Commission anticipates the normal volume of information exchange after the Company provides the additional information

ORDER

1. The May 1, 1989 Conservation Improvement Program filing of Northern States Power Company Gas Utility is hereby accepted.
2. NSP shall file, within five days of the date of this Order, the five year budget for its overall program.
3. The Company is granted a 90 day extension of time to file the new Commercial and Industrial Project required in the Commission's October 3 Order in Docket G-002/M-88-254. This project shall be filed as a proposed program change pursuant to the requirements of Minn. Rules, part 7840.1300.
4. NSP shall file, within 45 days of the date of this Order, a complete description of its performance-based disbursement proposal for the City of St. Paul Projects as required in the Commission's April 24 Order. Interested parties shall have 15 days from the date of the Company's filing to comment on this proposal.
5. The 30-day comment period and alternative project proposal period prescribed by Minn. Rules, part 7840.0900 will end on May 31, 1989.
6. The 15-day period for written responses on the comments and alternative projects prescribed by Minn. Rules, part 7840.0900 will end on June 15, 1989.

7. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)