

G-010/MR-88-990 ORDER ACCEPTING COMPLIANCE FILING AND CLOSING
DOCKET

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Proposal by Midwest Gas Company to Refund to Eligible Customers an Over- Collection Resulting from Errors in the Calculation of its Purchased Gas Adjustment	ISSUE DATE: March 2, 1992 DOCKET NO. G-010/MR-88-990 ORDER ACCEPTING COMPLIANCE FILING AND CLOSING DOCKET
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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 20, 1989, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING REFUND PLAN AND REQUIRING ADDITIONAL REFUNDS in the current docket. In that Order the Commission accepted a refund plan submitted by Midwest Gas Company (Midwest or the Company) and ordered the Company to file plans for two additional refunds. The refunds stemmed from Midwest's over-collections of storage gas cost for supplies transported by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern). The first additional refund was for over-collections attributable to the 1986-1987 reporting period. The second additional refund was for over-collections due to a dispute with Northern over supplies of "Best Efforts" gas.

On May 15, 1989, Midwest filed a plan for the first additional refund required by the Commission. On July 27, 1989, the Department of Public Service (the Department) certified the plan as being in compliance with the Commission's requirements.

On September 20, 1991, Midwest submitted a compliance filing showing the impact of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) ruling regarding the Northern/Midwest "Best Efforts" dispute. As a result of the ruling, Midwest paid Northern \$448,997.80 in resolution of their dispute.

On December 31, 1991, the Department filed comments recommending that the Commission accept Midwest's September 20, 1991 compliance filing as being in conformity with the Commission's requirements.

Midwest's compliance filing came before the Commission for consideration on January 28, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission's April 20, 1989 requirement that Midwest file a second additional refund plan was in response to the Company's December 23, 1988 report. In that report Midwest stated that it had accrued an "undetermined" amount of over-collection due to inaccurate billing by Northern for "Best Efforts" storage gas injections. The Company stated that Northern and Midwest had an ongoing billing dispute regarding these gas supplies, and that the dispute would eventually end in a payment by Northern to Midwest. Midwest assured the Commission that it would file a refund plan as soon as the dispute was resolved.

The FERC dispute resolution eventually resulted in a substantial payment by Midwest to Northern rather than the other way around. Midwest is thus no longer under obligation to refund its ratepayers for any over-collection of "Best Efforts" storage costs. Because Midwest's compliance filing resolves the last refund obligation under the Commission's April 20, 1989 Order, the Commission will accept the compliance filing and close the docket.

ORDER

1. Midwest's September 20, 1991 compliance filing is accepted.
2. Docket No. G-010/MR-88-990 is closed.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

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