

ISSUE DATE: May 30, 1996

DOCKET NO. G-012/GR-96-275

DOCKET NO. G-012/MR-96-534

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs	Chair
Tom Burton	Commissioner
Marshall Johnson	Commissioner
Dee Knaak	Commissioner
Don Storm	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Request of Western Gas Utilities, Inc. for Authority to Change Its Rates for Gas Service in Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: May 30, 1996

DOCKET NO. G-012/GR-96-275

In the Matter of a Request by Western Gas Utilities, Inc. to Establish a New Base Cost of Gas

DOCKET NO. G-012/MR-96-534

ORDER ALLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF FILINGS AND CLOSING DOCKETS

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On May 10, 1996, Western Utilities, Inc. (Western) filed a notice of general rate change to increase rates for gas service in Minnesota effective July 16, 1996. In its filing, Western proposed rates affecting all its customers and increasing charges by \$341,041 or 11.06 percent of test year gross revenues. The matter was assigned to Docket No. G-012/GR-96-275.

On the same day, Western filed a Notice of Miscellaneous Rate Change requesting Commission approval to implement new base gas costs in conjunction with its general rate filing, Docket No. G-012/GR-96-275. The base gas costs matter was assigned to Docket No. G-012/MR-96-534.

On May 22, 1996, Western filed a request for authority to withdraw the filings in these two dockets, make necessary modifications, and refile at a later date.

The Commission met to consider the matter on May 23, 1996.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

In its request filed May 22, 1996, Western explained that it had just recently learned, in the course of a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department), that the filings contained substantial inaccuracies. In these circumstances, and noting the early stage of proceedings in these matter, the Commission finds that withdrawal of the filings will serve the public interest and will honor Western's request in that regard.

With respect to Western's expressed intention to make necessary modifications in the filings

and refile at a later date, the Commission notes that once the Company's proposal to withdraw the filings in question has been accepted, the Company is free to modify as necessary and file at a date of its choosing and needs no specific approval or authority from the Commission for those actions.

The Company has indicated that it intends to refile in the near future. To clear the way for future corrected filings, the Company has requested that its withdrawal of these filings be accepted, effective May 23, 1996. The Commission will honor that request as well.

**ORDER**

1. The request of Western Gas Utilities, Inc. (Western) to withdraw its filings in Docket Nos. G-012/GR-96-275 and G-012/MR-96-534 is accepted. The filings are deemed withdrawn and the dockets are, therefore, hereby closed, effective May 23, 1996.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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