

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY FOR)	
APPROVAL OF A RATE REDUCTION/FREEZE)	EL96-024
AND ADOPTION OF ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING)	
FOR POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS OTHER)	
THAN PENSIONS)	

On September 30, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Northern States Power Company (NSP) for approval of an overall rate reduction/freeze and adoption of accrual accounting for post-retirement benefits other than pensions. NSP intended to fund the rate reduction from savings achieved through its merger with Wisconsin Energy Corporation. On June 6, 1997, the Commission received a request for withdrawal from NSP. The petition reflects the decision of NSP and Wisconsin Energy Corporation to terminate their Merger Agreement.

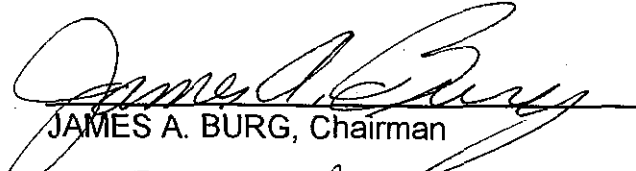
On June 24, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission reviewed this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A and ARSD 20:10. As the withdrawal renders all matters considered in this docket moot, the Commission voted to close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED, that docket EL96-024 be closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of July, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Helaine Keeso</u>
Date: <u>7/3/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
 PAM NELSON, Commissioner
 LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

