

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 18, 2016**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## Southwestern Public Service Co. Seeks Electric Rate Increase in 2017

**SANTA FE** – Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) submitted an application with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) this month to increase the company's retail electric rates effective December 1.

The Commission ruled that the proposed rates should not go into effect without a public hearing to establish if the increase is just and reasonable, and suspended the proposed increase for a period of nine months beginning December 1.

Furthermore, the Commission has appointed a Hearing Examiner to take all authorized and necessary action to conduct any needed hearings.

A pre-hearing conference has been scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 8, 2016, in the Larry Ward Board Room, located on the ground floor of the PERA Building, 1120 Paseo de Peralta, in Santa Fe. The Hearing Examiner will consider discussion regarding procedural matters, including the possibility of mediation, and details for the case at the pre-hearing conference. After the pre-hearing conference, the Hearing Examiner will issue a procedural order for the case.

A settlement conference is scheduled for January 30, 2017, and a settlement mediator may be appointed by the Hearing Examiner assigned to this case.

A public hearing will be held on April 10, 2017, starting at 9 a.m., in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the PERA Building to hear and receive testimony, exhibits, arguments, and any other appropriate matters relevant to this proceeding.

The Commission's order, issued on November 9, further outlines a number of requirements for SPS regarding notice to their customers referencing Case No. 16-00269-UT.

SPS is seeking to increase its retail electric base rates by \$41.4 million, which represents a 19 percent increase over current revenue that would affect all retail customers and customer classifications, including rates for Distributed Generation customers.

All correspondence, pleadings, inquiries, written comments or other communications concerning the application filed by SPS should refer to Case No. 16-00269-UT.

### **About the NMPRC**

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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