

SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the) Application No. PI-231
Commission, on its own motion,)
responding to the COVID-19) ORDER OPENING DOCKET
state of emergency.) AND ISSUING EMERGENCY
) MEASURES
)
)
) Entered: March 24, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"), on its own motion, opens this docket for the purpose of responding to the state of emergency declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020 with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. This docket encompasses each Commission department, as well as Commission operations as a whole.

While many state functions may be slowed or delayed as a result of the state of emergency, the Commission is tasked with ensuring certain essential state functions remain operative. The Commission recognizes that current recommendations are to suspend large gatherings of people and to minimize contacts wherever possible. The Commission also wishes to protect the safety and health of Nebraska residents. To those ends, the Commission makes the following findings and takes the following actions:

1. **Commission Procedure.**

- a. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-03, issued on March 17, 2020, Commission meetings, workshops, and hearings shall be conducted via telephone or video conference unless otherwise noticed. Notice of each meeting, workshop, or hearing will include instructions for the public to attend and participate in public comment periods, if applicable.
- b. The Commission finds that circumstances may arise in the course of this emergency which prevent a quorum of Commissioners from meeting. Therefore, the Commission hereby authorizes, for the duration of this emergency, the Hearing Officer in this docket or the Executive Director of the Commission to take the following actions if necessary:
 - i. Reviewing and approving Commission invoices as appropriate for the duration of this emergency;

- ii. For natural gas dockets open as of the date of this Order, reviewing and approving, as appropriate, natural gas assessment orders, including orders relating to the work of the Public Advocate, the Public Advocate's consultants, and the Commission's consultants; and
 - iii. Issuing further orders in this docket as necessary.
2. **Temporary Ban on Natural Gas Disconnections.** The Commission hereby finds that circumstances exist such that disconnection of natural gas could create a situation dangerous to the life or health of customers or to property. Therefore, a temporary ban on natural gas disconnections for residential customers shall be issued pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1805(1)(1) and 291 Neb. Admin. Code § 9-013.05. This ban on disconnections shall continue until June 1, 2020, unless modified by further order of this Commission.
3. **Transportation Department.**
- a. Motor carriers unable to provide authorized passenger or household goods transportation services due to suspension of contracts, temporary business closures, or other emergency measures will not be subject to adverse Commission action.
 - b. With the exception listed in paragraph (3)(a) above, no services under a certificate of public convenience and necessity or permit shall be suspended without first obtaining approval from the Commission or a Hearing Officer. Application fees for suspension of transportation services are temporarily waived until June 1, 2020, unless modified by further order of the Commission.

This docket will remain open for the purpose of responding to further issues that arise as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. Commission actions listed above shall be effective until June 1, 2020, unless otherwise stated or modified by a further order of the Commission.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that a docket shall be opened as Application No. PI-231 for the purpose of responding to the state of emergency declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020 with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the findings and actions of the Commissions described above be, and hereby are, adopted.

IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this docket shall remain open until further order by the Commission.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 24th day of March, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Rod Johnson
Crystal Broadie
Tim Schram
Dee Waterhouse

Mary Padden
Chair

ATTEST:

Michelle Hill

Executive Director

