

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE	DOCKET NO. E-21451
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ORDER SUSPENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND HEARING DATE

(Issued April 5, 2001)

On March 29, 2001, Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) filed a Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule in this case. In the motion, NIPCO requested a suspension of the procedural schedule pending completion and filing of its amended petition and exhibits, the review of said amended petition and exhibits by Board staff, issuance by the Board and publication by NIPCO of a revised notice of the filing of NIPCO's petition, and until after the time for filing objections following publication of the notice has passed.

A telephone conference call on the motion was held on April 3, 2001. Participating in the conference call were Mr. Dennis Puckett and Mr. Mark Landa, attorneys for NIPCO, and Ms. Jennifer Easler, attorney for the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate). With their permission, the undersigned separately spoke with Mr. Lyle Ditmars, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Ring.

There are no objections to the motion to suspend the procedural schedule. NIPCO will be filing amendments to its petition within the next two weeks. After reviewing an amended easement, Mr. Ditmars expects to file a withdrawal of the Rings' objection to the petition.

The revised route and amended petition may have the effect of eliminating the need for a hearing in this case. There may be no need for prefiled testimony.

Therefore, NIPCO's motion should be granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. NIPCO's Motion to Suspend the Procedural Schedule is hereby granted.
2. The procedural schedule and hearing date are hereby suspended until further order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Amy L. Christensen
Amy L. Christensen
Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 5th day of April, 2001.