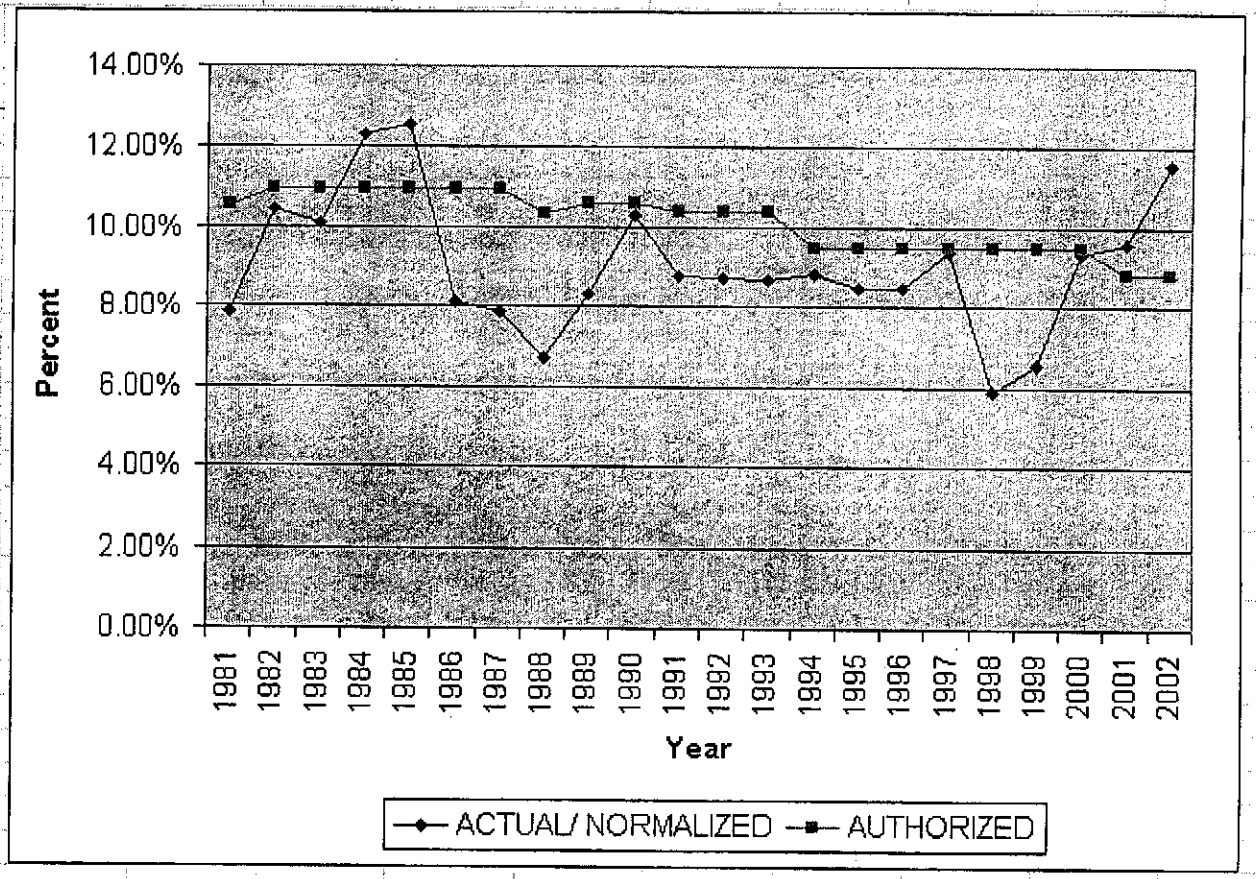
Senate Energy & Telecomm.Comm.
Exhibit No. 6
Date 3-31-05
Bill No. SB331

NorthWestern Energy
Natural Gas Utility
Actual versus Authorized Annual Rate of Return

		ACTUAL/ NORMALIZED	AUTHORIZED
1981		7.87%	10.54%
1982		10.43%	10.98%
1983		10.11%	10.98%
1984		12.31%	10.98%
1985		12.57%	10.98%
1986		8.13%	10.98%
1987		7.84%	10.98%
1988		6.68%	10.34%
1989		8.31%	10.62%
1990		10.32%	10.62%
1991	*	8.77%	10.41%
1992	*	8.75%	10.41%
1993	*	8.68%	10.41%
1994	*	8.81%	9.49%
1995	*	8.49%	9.49%
1996	*	8.45%	9.48%
1997	*	9.38%	9.48%
1998	*	5.90%	9.48%
1999	*	6.52%	9.48%
2000	*	9.34%	9.48%
2001	*	9.61%	8.82%
2002	*	11.57%	8.82%



Source Data: NWE Actual/Schedule 27 Financial Data

NorthWestern Energy
Natural Gas Utility
Actual versus Authorized Annual Rate of Return

		ACTUAL	AUTHORIZED	% OVER OR UNDER	RATE BASE	ACTUAL ROR	AUTHORIZED ROR	ROR Earnings Difference
1981		7.87%	10.54%	-2.67%	$164,434,935	$12,941,029	$17,331,442	($4,390,413)
1982		10.43%	10.98%	-0.55%	$178,491,995	$18,616,715	$19,598,421	($981,706)
1983		10.11%	10.98%	-0.87%	$178,896,720	$18,086,458	$19,642,860	($1,556,401)
1984		12.31%	10.98%	1.33%	$182,921,088	$22,517,586	$20,084,735	$2,432,850
1985		12.57%	10.98%	1.59%	$169,238,343	$21,273,260	$18,582,370	$2,690,890
1986		8.13%	10.98%	-2.85%	$173,090,837	$14,072,285	$19,005,374	($4,933,089)
1987		7.84%	10.98%	-3.14%	$194,742,319	$15,267,798	$21,382,707	($6,114,909)
1988		6.68%	10.34%	-3.66%	$217,338,771	$14,518,230	$22,472,829	($7,954,599)
1989		8.31%	10.62%	-2.31%	$220,361,538	$18,312,044	$23,402,395	($5,090,352)
1990		10.32%	10.62%	-0.30%	$228,152,565	$23,545,345	$24,229,802	($684,458)
1991	*	8.77%	10.41%	-1.64%	$227,700,064	$19,969,296	$23,703,577	($3,734,281)
1992	*	8.75%	10.41%	-1.66%	$236,295,608	$20,675,866	$24,598,373	($3,922,507)
1993	*	8.68%	10.41%	-1.73%	$244,562,072	$21,227,988	$25,458,912	($4,230,924)
1994	*	8.81%	9.49%	-0.68%	$259,162,963	$22,832,257	$24,594,565	($1,762,308)
1995	*	8.49%	9.49%	-1.00%	$278,502,041	$23,644,823	$26,429,844	($2,785,020)
1996	*	8.45%	9.48%	-1.03%	$294,013,664	$24,844,155	$27,872,495	($3,028,341)
1997	*	9.38%	9.48%	-0.10%	$305,231,321	$28,630,698	$28,935,929	($305,231)
1998	*	5.90%	9.48%	-3.58%	$283,701,290	$16,738,376	$26,894,882	($10,156,506)
1999	*	6.52%	9.48%	-2.96%	$234,914,643	$15,316,435	$22,269,908	($6,953,473)
2000	*	9.34%	9.48%	-0.14%	$232,536,825	$21,718,939	$22,044,491	($325,552)
2001	*	9.61%	8.82%	0.79%	$231,266,754	$22,224,735	$20,397,728	$1,827,007
2002	*	11.57%	8.82%	2.75%	$219,872,828	$25,439,286	$19,392,783	$6,046,503
						$442,413,603	$498,326,423	($55,912,820)
					% of Authorized	88.78%	Annual Average	($2,541,492)

* Schedule 27 Normalized ROR's