

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA) CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF A) AND TARIFF REVISIONS
CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS)**

EL16-003

On February 11, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of a contract with deviations with Dakota Access, LLC (Dakota Access) and the associated tariff revisions. The proposed contract with deviations would discount the electric rate given to Dakota Access through May 1, 2019, for the provision of electric services to a pump station located in Redfield, South Dakota. NorthWestern proposes an effective date of April 1, 2016. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Electric Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

16th Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 15th Revised Sheet No. 1

On February 18, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 4, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On March 3, 2016, and March 28, 2016, NorthWestern filed responses to Commission staff's data requests. The customer, Dakota Access, did appear at the Commission Meeting on March 30, 2016.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-38A-8.3, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, and 49-34A-12 and ARSD 20:10:13:09 and 20:10:13:10.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 30, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Dakota Access and the associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable and in the public interest for service rendered on or after April 1, 2016, the Commission, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting, voted to grant the request to approve the contract with deviations and the associated tariff revisions. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of a contract with deviations and the associated tariff revisions is hereby granted and is effective for services rendered on and after April 1, 2016.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of April, 2016.

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, electronically or by mail.

By: Karen E. Cremer

Date: 04/05/16

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman
Dissenting

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner