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June 17, 2013

via eFiling

Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: *In the Matter of the Complaint by Oak Tree Energy LLC against NorthWestern Energy for refusing to enter into a Purchase Power Agreement - Docket EL11-006*

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On May 17, 2013, the Public Utilities Commission entered an *Amended Final Decision and Order; Notice of Entry* in docket EL11-006, a complaint proceeding brought by Oak Tree Energy, LLC against NorthWestern Energy. Within the referenced Order, the Commission required the parties to enter into good-faith negotiations and reach agreement on a power purchase contract within 30 days of the date of entry of the Order.

While substantial progress has been made concerning the contract, the parties continue to disagree on several key commercial terms and conditions and are working diligently to resolve these open items. Additional negotiations are anticipated this week, and the parties hope to amicably resolve the remaining issues. Accordingly, NorthWestern respectfully requests a 10-day extension of the deadline to conclude negotiations. If the parties cannot make additional progress, the Commission's assistance may be required to finalize the contract.

Oak Tree's acknowledgement and consent to the extension is attached to this correspondence. Please call with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Timothy P. Olson*

Timothy P. Olson
Senior Corporate Counsel & Corporate Secretary

cc: Service List

Acknowledgement and Consent

Oak Tree Energy, LLC, hereby agrees and consents to NorthWestern Energy's 10-day extension of the negotiation deadline as of the date first set forth above.

Oak Tree Energy, LLC

By: 
Name: Yvette K. LaFrenette
Title: Attorney for Oak Tree Energy, LLC