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August 2, 2011

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director  
S. D. Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: NorthWestern Corporation Proposed Contract With Deviation PUC Docket EL11-\_\_\_\_

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), doing business as NorthWestern Energy, is filing with the Commission a proposed electric contract with deviation. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:39, the Company states:

- (1) The documents submitted with this filing include:
  - The Application for Tariff Change and Report in Support of Tariff Filing of NorthWestern (the "Report"), pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:26;
  - The proposed revised tariff schedule, Section 4, Sheet 1. 9th Revised
  - A map of the proposed route
  - Schedules detailing the cost of the project
  - A copy of the contract between NorthWestern and the Customer.
- (2) The proposed effective date for the new tariff is September 6, 2011. The company plans to begin construction as soon as it receives PUC approval.
- (3) The names and addresses of those to who copies of the rate schedule have been mailed:

Mr. Darrell Mueller  
Andes Central School  
P.O. Box 40  
Lake Andes, SD 57356

(4) Brief description of the proposed changes in rates:

NorthWestern is proposing the contract with deviation to add a second transformer that will serve a proposed addition at the Andes Central School. The School has requested that the company install an additional transformer rather than replace the existing transformer. This results in additional costs that the School has agreed to pay.

NorthWestern will install, or arrange for the installation of, approximately 790 feet of underground cable. In addition a 300 KVA transformer, Elbow Cabinet and additional appurtenances will be installed and owned by NorthWestern.

The customer will be responsible for an estimated cost of \$38,726. The cost of the project can be found in the attached Confidential exhibit. An estimate for the cost of the original project as proposed by NorthWestern, and an estimate for the cost of the revised project as requested by the customer, are included. The Customer agrees to pay for the net difference in actual project costs within 14 days of project completion.

(5) Reasons for the proposed changes:

The reason for the proposed change is the customer's need for electric service for their proposed addition.

(6) Number of customers whose cost of service will be affected and annual changes in cost of service to such customers:

Andes Central School will be the only customer impacted by this filing.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Decker  
Regulatory Analyst