

NorthWestern[™] Energy

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December 30, 2011

Ms. Patricia VanGerpen, Executive Director
S.D. Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. VanGerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), doing business as NorthWestern Energy, is filing with the Commission revisions to its Electric Tariff. NorthWestern respectfully requests Commission approval of these proposed revisions.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:39, the Company states:

1. The documents submitted with this filing include:

Rate No. 56
General Terms

Section No. 3, 2nd revised Sheet No. 25.2
Section No. 5, 7th revised Sheet No. 1

2. The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is February 1, 2012.

3. Brief description of the tariff changes:

In Section 3, sheet 25.2, the Company proposes to remove the language in section 2 as the Company will no longer perform maintenance work on customer owned lighting systems. Customers will be referred to local contractors. In remote small towns where access to contractors is limited, the Company may choose to provide this service if resources are available.

In Section 5, sheet 1, the Company proposes to add language so the Company may require that a customer (or customer representative) at least the legal age of majority or 18 years of age, be present at service turn on or during any work at the customer's premise.

4. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

See Section 3.

5. Number of customers whose cost of service will be affected and annual changes in cost of service to such customers.

This customer representative change may affect any NorthWestern customer who has work completed on their electric system. The street light maintenance change will mostly affect the towns the Company serves. There are approximately 1,600 street lights that are owned by customers.

Sincerely,

Jeff Decker, Regulatory Specialist