

**EXHIBIT A****REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), and pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, requests confidential treatment as follows:

- 1) The documents for which confidential treatment are the work papers used in determining the costs of the Companies annual rates for purchased power, as well as the list of customers and their annual generation.
- 2) The Company requests that such confidential treatment be afforded the Contract and Workpapers indefinitely, or, at a minimum, until the conclusion of the ten-year term of such Contract;
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

Jeffrey Decker  
Regulatory Analyst  
NorthWestern Energy  
600 Market Street West  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 353-8315

Pamela Bonrud  
Director Regulatory Affairs  
NorthWestern Energy  
125 S. Dakota Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
(605) 978-2990

- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Workpapers provide proprietary information concerning both the Company and the Customer. Sharing this information to third parties may provide competitive advantages to the competitors for both NorthWestern and the Customer.
- 5) As a factual basis in support of this request, please see the response to item 4) above.