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*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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July 13, 2012

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

**Re: EL12-040 – In the Matter of the Request for a Declaratory Ruling regarding the Electric Service Territory Boundary between NorthWestern Energy and Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

For filing, please find Commission Staff's Response and Recommendation on NorthWestern Energy's Petition for Declaratory Ruling, including Staff's Exhibits A through E.

Sincerely,

Ryan Soye  
Staff Attorney