



EXHIBIT A

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

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

- 1) The documents for which confidential treatment is requested are the Electric Distribution Service Agreement between NorthWestern and Dakota Access, LLC ("Dakota Access"), dated effective September 1, 2015 (the "Agreement"), and the work-papers provided in this filing marked as confidential;
- 2) NorthWestern requests that such confidential treatment be afforded the Agreement and work-papers indefinitely, or, at a minimum, until the conclusion of the ten-year term of such Agreement;
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

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NorthWestern Energy
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- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Agreement and work-papers provide proprietary information concerning both NorthWestern and Dakota Access, including the pricing of electric service. Sharing this information to third parties may provide competitive advantages to the competitors for both NorthWestern and Dakota Access.



- 5) As a factual basis in support of this request, please see the response to item 4) above.