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South Dakota

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March 24, 2016

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

RE: EL16-003 – In the Matter of the Filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy for Approval of a Contract with Deviations

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

While Dakota Access is not a party to the above-captioned docket, Staff reached out to them to in order to clarify certain information. Attached, please find a chart detailing the expected power demand and energy for the Redfield pump station.

Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, the representative from Dakota Access responsible for this information, Ryan Hayes, will be unavailable for the Commission meeting. However, he did provide the following explanation:

The 14.5 MW represents the situation where all three station pumps are in concurrent operation and at full capacity, the 11.7 MW is an annualized expected peak under current flow rate projections. In the near-term we are prepared for circumstances where flow may be down or even halted for a handful of reasons (including periods of possible power outages). In such situations and until the pipeline is at max capacity we will make efforts to recover compromised throughput to the extent we have available horsepower. For purposes of load forecasting we held to expected conditions. Additionally, there are potential combinations of flow characteristics involving throughput and viscosity that may require all three pumps to operate but we do not anticipate we will experience those conditions. We believe a correlation exists between oil price, drilling and production and the throughput in the pipeline which does introduce uncertainty into the forecasting.

Best regards,

Kristen Edwards

Kristen Edwards
Staff Attorney