



April 15, 2016

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
Pierre, SD

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation doing business as NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern”), is filing with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) revisions to its Electric Tariff. NorthWestern respectfully requests Commission approval of these proposed revisions.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:36 and ARSD 20:10:13:39 NorthWestern states:

1. The documents submitted with this filing include:
 - The proposed revised tariff schedule, Section 4, 17th Revised Sheet No. 1, Summary List of Contracts with Deviations which includes a reference to the Electric Distribution Service Agreement (the “Agreement”) between NorthWestern and Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC (“Customer”) and the information required by ARSD 20:10:13:09
 - A copy of the executed proposed Agreement, for which confidential treatment has been requested, pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41 (see Exhibit A to this letter)
 - Confidential work papers showing the calculation of the project cost (see Exhibit B to this letter)
2. The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is June 1, 2016.
3. The names and addresses of those to whom this filing has been emailed:

Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC
41055 282nd Street
Parkston, SD 57365
Attn: Matt Winsand
Email: mwinsand@dakotaplains.net
4. Brief description of the tariff changes:



Dakota Plains will be a new customer on NorthWestern's electric system near Yankton, South Dakota. Customer is building a grain handling facility at this location and requires electric service. Based on the cost of the project, NorthWestern requires security for the capital investment in order to protect its legacy customers. The deviations from tariff requested in this filing include:

- Utilization of an annual volume look back in order to meet take or pay requirements
- Requirement of a letter of credit from Customer, without a contribution in aid of a construction
- Termination conditions as set forth in the Agreement

Customer will be served under rate 34 tariff rates and all other conditions of the general terms and conditions.

5. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

NorthWestern desires to provide Customer with electric service. The additional protections included in this Agreement provide security for NorthWestern and its legacy customers.

The letter of credit provides security to protect against unforeseen circumstances surrounding the annual usage. Once the total obligation usage of the Agreement has been met, the Agreement will terminate and the letter of credit will be cancelled.

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

Dakota Plains Ag Center, LLC will be the only customer affected by this filing. It is further noted that the need for this contract with deviation is dependent upon South Dakota Public Utilities Commission approval of docket EL16-013.

Sincerely,

Jeff J. Decker

Regulatory Specialist

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