



April 20, 2016

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building  
500 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD, 57501

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 and Natural Gas Tariff. NorthWestern respectfully requests Commission approval of these proposed revisions.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:39, the Company states:

1. The documents submitted with this filing include:

Electric Tariff	Section No. 6, 10th revised Sheet No. 1
Electric Tariff	Section No. 6, 9th revised Sheet No. 1.1
Electric Tariff	Section No. 6, 8th revised Sheet No. 3
Electric Tariff	Section No. 6, 5th revised Sheet No. 7
Electric Tariff	Section No. 6, 7th revised Sheet No. 9
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 1, 9th revised Sheet No. 2
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 9th revised Sheet No. 1
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 8th revised Sheet No. 1.1
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 7th revised Sheet No. 3
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 5th revised Sheet No. 4
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 4th revised Sheet No. 5
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 4th revised Sheet No. 7
Natural Gas Tariff	Section No. 6, 6th revised Sheet No. 9

The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is June 1, 2016.

2. Brief description of the tariff changes:

The purpose of this filing is to update the form letters in the Electric Tariff and Natural Gas Tariff as follows:

1. Electric Tariff sheet numbers 3, 7 and 9 contain changes to update the reconnection fees and non-sufficient funds charges so the forms are consistent with the changes recently approved in EL14-106.



Natural Gas charges have also been added, allowing the same form letter to be used for both electric and natural gas customers. As shown in the redline versions we have proposed minor language revisions within the letters.

2. In the Natural Gas tariff, there are several proposed changes to the forms section. The current tariff contains three letters referenced as “Notice of Intent to Disconnect Service” on Sheets 3, 4 and 5. In this filing NorthWestern is proposing that the information on Sheets 4 and 5 be deleted from the tariff. Sheet 7 contains clean-up language and includes the addition of the Nebraska and South Dakota electric reconnect charges. This change will allow NorthWestern to use one form for all South Dakota and Nebraska customers. Sheet 9 contains language revisions. The non-sufficient funds charge for natural gas will remain at \$15.
3. Four minor changes are proposed for the bill format on Page One of the bill.

The first change is an update to NorthWestern’s corporate logo.

The second change on the top of Page One shifts NorthWestern’s address from the right of the company logo to the top of the bill. The update is reflective of the new general office address in Butte, Montana.

The third change is to the information below the charts on the left side of Page One. The cost per therm and cost per kwh references were removed from the bill.

The fourth change is the addition of icons to the section headings on Page One. This change provides more graphical appeal to customer communications. Studies show that infographics (which includes icons) create better customer reach and recognition when compared to plain text.

There is one change on Page Two of the bill. NorthWestern’s web address was removed from the company logo area. In addition, the billing amounts were updated so the dollar amounts are consistent with Page One.

### 3. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

Prior to the completion of EL14-106, the reconnection and non-sufficient funds charges were the same for both natural gas and electric customers. With the



approval of new charges in the electric utility but not in the natural gas utility, the form letters need to be updated to reflect the customer service system's selection of letters sent to customers. One letter for both utilities will simplify this process.

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

The bill format change will impact all Electric and Natural Gas customers. The letter changes will impact only customers receiving such notification. No revenue increase is proposed in the Natural Gas portion of this filing. The electric revenue will increase to the extent allowed in EL14-106. NorthWestern will continue to implement the current tariff charges until receipt of Commission approval of the updated forms and tariffs contained in this filing.

Sincerely,

**Jeff J. Decker**

*Regulatory Specialist*

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