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Patricia Van Gerpen **Executive Director** Public Utilities Commission 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501

> RE: Ag Processing, Inc. Our File: 7003

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This firm represents Ag Processing Inc. Our client has plans to build and operate a new soybean processing plant in Aberdeen South Dakota. Although the new facility is in Northern Electric Cooperative's boundaries, our client requests Commission approval to take service from Northwestern Energy. Enclosed for filing please find a Petition for a Service Territory Exception pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56.

Prior to this filing, Ag Processing worked with both Northern Electric Cooperative Inc. and Northwestern Energy. The parties executed a Confidentiality Agreement, exchanged pertinent information and ultimately all signed a Settlement Agreement. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. will not oppose the filed Ag Processing Petition.

Please file the following documents:

- 1. Petition for Service Territory Exception;
- 2. Electric distribution service agreement with NorthWestern Energy: this document is CONFIDENTIAL. Each page of the service agreement is stamped CONFIDENTIAL. Petitioner requests this document be filed as confidential.
- 3. Map of the facility;
- 4. Confidentiality Agreement;
- 5. Settlement Agreement.

Petitioner respectfully requests its Petition be heard by the Commission as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

KARA C. SEMMLER

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