

**NorthWestern Energy
Docket GE16-005
South Dakota 2017 DSM Filing**

**South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
First Data Request (1-1 – 1-12)**

Data Requests received December 7, 2016

1-9) Does NorthWestern object to a two month suspension of the DSM Plan? If so, please explain.

RESPONSE:

No, but NorthWestern would prefer to retain the DNV GL trained staff and to compensate the program contractor, DNV GL, through the suspension. Should there be a program suspension, some support from DNV GL will be required in any case as the program messages and materials direct customers and trade allies to call the program hotline and program interest should be tracked for follow up at the resolution of this docket. Since the suspension of the electric programs, DNV GL has been tracking customer and trade ally inquiries for potential rebates anticipating that the 2017 details will be available in the upcoming weeks. Should the Plan be suspended, there will be need for additional follow up with these customers and trade allies as well as the ability to track and follow up on new requests. See the response to Data Request 1-8.