



December 15, 2016

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

**RE: Docket GE16-005 - In the Matter of the filing by NorthWestern Corporation, dba NorthWestern Energy, for Approval of 2017 Demand Side Management Plan – Responses to First Data Requests and Request for Confidential Treatment**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Please find NorthWestern Corporation's, dba NorthWestern Energy, filing of Responses to the First Data Requests for Docket GE16-005. In this filing, the response to first data request 1-12, Attachment 1-12 is marked as Confidential. Attachment 1-12 contains confidential information that is considered to be proprietary to NorthWestern Energy's utility businesses and that of its DSM Program Contractor.

Therefore, in accordance with ARSD 20: 10:01:41, NorthWestern Energy respectfully requests confidential treatment of Attachment 1-12 to the first data responses indefinitely.

Any questions regarding this request for confidential treatment may be directed to:

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Sincerely,

*Pamela A. Bonrud* *By Donie Williams*

**Pamela A. Bonrud**  
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Cc: Danie Williams, Manager Regulatory Support Services, NorthWestern Energy  
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