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December 30, 2011

Ms. Patricia VanGerpen, Executive Director  
S.D. Public Utilities Commission  
State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. VanGerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), doing business as NorthWestern Energy, is filing with the Commission revisions to its 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:

General Terms	Section No. 5, 4th revised Sheet No. 1
General Terms	Section No. 5, 4th revised Sheet No. 1a
General Terms	Section No. 5, 4th revised Sheet No. 2

The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is February 1, 2012.

2. Brief description of the tariff changes:

In Section 5, sheet 1, the Company proposes to add language so the Company may require a customer, or customer representative at least the legal age of majority, or 18 years of age, be present at service turn on.

Section 5, sheet 1a is a revision to the service line installation language. When calculating a contribution in aid of construction, the distance will be measured from the company's gas main instead of the customer's property line. This change clarifies the point of project cost calculation, and will eliminate the potential subsidization of residential customers for long service runs that are uneconomical.

In Section 5, sheet 2, the Company proposes to add language so the Company may require a customer (or customer representative) at least the legal age of majority, be present at service turn on or during any work at the customer's premise.

3. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

See Section 3.

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

These changes may affect new customers or customers receiving work at their premise.

Sincerely,

Jeff Decker, Regulatory Specialist