

EXHIBIT A**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), and pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, requesting confidential treatment as follows:

- 1) The documents for which confidential treatment are requested are: the Work papers and Exhibits containing the Company's and the Customer's terms and charges (jointly, the "Work papers");
- 2) The Company requests that confidential treatment be afforded the Contract and Work papers indefinitely or, at a minimum, for ten years from the date of this filing.
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding this confidentiality request are:

Jeffrey Decker	Pamela Bonrud
Regulatory Analyst	Director Gov't and Regulatory Affairs
NorthWestern Energy	NorthWestern Energy
600 Market Street West	3010 W. 69 th Street
Huron, SD 57350	Sioux Falls, SD 57108
(605) 353-8315	(605) 978-2990
- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Contract and Work papers contain proprietary financial information concerning both the Company and the Customers, including the pricing of natural gas services, the costs of facilities to serve the Customers, etc. Public disclosure of said information may improperly provide third party competitors of NorthWestern and/or the Customers with undue competitive advantage.
- 5) As a factual basis in support of this request, please see the response to item 4) above.