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June 27, 2012

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
S. D. Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: NorthWestern Corporation Proposed Contract With Deviation PUC Docket EL12-____

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), doing business as NorthWestern Energy, is filing with the Commission a proposed electric contract with deviation. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:39, the Company states:

- (1) The documents submitted with this filing include:
 - The Application for Tariff Change and Report in Support of Tariff Filing of NorthWestern (the "Report"), pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:26;
 - The proposed revised tariff schedule, Section 4, Sheet 2. 7th Revised
 - A copy of the contract between NorthWestern and the Customer.
- (2) The proposed effective date for the new tariff is August 1, 2012.
- (3) The names and addresses of those to who copies of the rate schedule have been mailed:

Mr. Kevin Skelly
AMPI
315 North Broadway
PO Box 455
New Ulm, MN 56073

- (4) Brief description of the proposed changes in rates:

Beginning in February of 2007, NorthWestern began providing natural gas service to the AMPI plant in Freeman. The customer was served under rate 85FAM. This rate was approved in the 2007 rate case. The rate consists of the rate 85 tariff plus an

additional distribution charge of 9.9 cents per therm to contribute to the payment of the AMPI pipeline which was purchased by NWE from AMPI in 2007.

On April 1 of 2012, the customer contracted with a third-party marketer for the purchase of their gas commodity. With this change, NWE must serve the customer under the terms and conditions of rate 87, as opposed to rate 85. Approval of this filing will allow NWE to serve the customer under rate 87. The deviation will allow NWE to continue to charge the 9.9 cent rate to cover the cost of the pipeline. The original agreement and amendment are set to mature on Feb 1, 2017. At that time, the customer will be served under rate 87.

(5) Reasons for the proposed changes:

The reason for the proposed change is the customer's request to be a transport customer.

(6) Number of customers whose cost of service will be affected and annual changes in cost of service to such customers:

AMPI will be the only customer impacted by this filing.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Decker
Regulatory Analyst