



December 17, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

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:

Rate 87	Section No. 3, 5th revised Sheet No. 6.4
Rate 87	Section No. 3, 3rd revised Sheet No. 6.4A
Adjustment Clause Rate	Section No. 3, 354th revised Sheet No. 9a
Adjustment Clause Rate	Section No. 3, 253rd revised Sheet No. 9b
General Terms and Conditions	Section No. 5, 6th revised Sheet No. 2
General Terms and Conditions	Section No. 5, 4th revised Sheet No. 4
Gas Transportation Tariff	Section No. 5, 3rd revised Sheet No. 7.2

A listing of the natural gas transportation marketers

The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is January 2, 2016 and NorthWestern hereby requests that the Commission approve this application on less than thirty days notice.

2. Brief description of the tariff changes:

The purpose of this filing is to make three changes to NorthWestern's natural gas tariff:

1. Section 3, Sheets 6.4, 6.4A, 9a, 9b and Section 5, Sheet 7.2 contain changes to the reference of the gas pricing publication vendor.
2. Section 5, Sheet 2 reinstates the tamper fee language that was inadvertently removed in a prior filing.
3. Section 5, Sheet 4 adds language that allows for the resale of Compressed Natural Gas at a Commercial refueling station.



3. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

Change 1 was necessitated when the company changed vendors for subscription index pricing. In the listed tariff sheets, the references to a specific pricing publication are removed and reference is made to the first of month index price. The pricing points will remain the same however there may be slight price differences in daily prices. The change to this new subscription vendor provides the company with enhanced pricing information at lower costs.

Change 2 reinstates the \$100 per occurrence tamper fee language. In docket NG11-003, the Commission approved inclusion of a tamper fee of \$100 when customers reconnect their own natural gas service. The tariff became effective on December 1, 2011. In docket NG11-008, filed on December 30, 2011, an update was made to sheet 2. However a prior version of the tariff was used to prepare the December 30 filing that did not include the \$100 tamper fee language. This omission was discovered during the processing of EL14-106. With this current filing, NorthWestern proposes to restore the language approved in NG11-003.

Change 3 adjusts the tariff to allow for resale of natural gas at commercial refueling stations. NorthWestern has recently received several inquiries regarding the resale of natural gas as a motor fuel. To accommodate a commercial natural gas refueling station, the general terms must be changed so an exception to the no resale rule is allowed for this business option.

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

The change regarding the subscription service will have a minor increase or decrease to all natural gas customers. A list of the natural gas transport marketers affected by this change is included with this filing. The filing has been sent to each marketer. The tamper fee will impact less than 5 customers per year while the resale change will currently impact one customer.

Sincerely,

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