

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)	CONTRACT WITH
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)	DEVIATIONS AND
APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH)	APPROVING TARIFF
DEVIATIONS WITH HAMLIN RNG LLC)	REVISIONS
)	
)	
)	NG23-003

On January 26, 2023, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval of a contract with deviations with Hamlin RNG LLC (Customer). The Customer desires to have NorthWestern install a natural gas pipeline that is approximately 300 feet in length and associated facilities. This pipeline will be used to transport renewable natural gas from the dairy farm at which it is being produced, to an interconnection point west of Bryant, South Dakota. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it requires a fixed monthly charge, take or pay volumes, and a security for the capital investment cost in order to protect its legacy customers. NorthWestern has also included natural gas quality standards the Customer must achieve to have gas transported in the pipeline. The contract includes recovery of the pipeline project costs over a 15-year period and project costs will be recovered through a fixed monthly charge. An annual review will be conducted to determine if the volumes have met the required take or pay amount. All volume charges will be billed at the tariff rate 87. NorthWestern proposes an effective date of March 15, 2023.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

3rd Revised Sheet No. 3

Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 3

On February 2, 2023, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 17, 2023, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission’s PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11.

At its regular meeting on February 28, 2023, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern’s request for approval of a contract with deviations with Customer and the associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NorthWestern’s request for approval of a contract with deviations and to approve the associated tariff sheet with an effective date of March 15, 2023. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern’s request seeking approval of a contract with deviations

with Customer is hereby granted with an effective date of March 15, 2023. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Customer is hereby approved effective March 15, 2023.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of March 2023.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Adam DeHuel</u></p> <p>Date: <u>3/3/23</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner