

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER APPROVING</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )</b>	<b>CONTRACT WITH</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR )</b>	<b>DEVIATIONS AND</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH )</b>	<b>APPROVING TARIFF</b>
<b>DEVIATIONS WITH HAMMINK BIOGAS LLC )</b>	<b>REVISIONS</b>
)	
)	
)	<b>NG23-018</b>

On September 1, 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 Hammink Biogas LLC (Customer). The Customer desires to have natural gas service extended to its location to activate the RNG production process. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it requires security for the capital investment cost, annual take-or-pay volumes, and a volumetric surcharge in order to protect its legacy customers. The contract includes recovery of the project costs over a 15-year period. The project costs and tariff delivery charges will be recovered through tariff rate 87 plus a volumetric charge. An annual review will be conducted to determine if the volume requirement is met. The developer of the Hammink Biogas LLC and Northern Sky Biogas LLC projects requested that costs for the two projects be split equally between the facilities. NorthWestern requests approval with an effective date for the tariff revisions of November 1, 2023.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

8<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 3

Canceling 7<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 3

On September 7, 2023, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 22, 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 October 24, 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 November 1, 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 November 1, 2023. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Customer are hereby approved, effective November 1, 2023.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2023.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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.

By: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 21 October 2023

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner