



October 21, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: Docket No. PS08-002  
Removal of Waiver of 49 CFR  
Sections 192.285(a)(2) and 192.285(c)

Dear Ms. Gerpen:

NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) submits this request to remove the waiver of 49 CFR Section 192.285(a)(2) and 192.285(c) granted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission on July 2, 2008 in Docket No. PS08-002. NorthWestern is requesting the Commission remove this waiver as it is no longer necessary and is void by irrelevance due to a change in Pipeline Safety Regulations § 192.285(c), effective October 1, 2015.

§ 192.285(c) Plastic Pipe: Qualifying persons to make joints states:

A person must be re-qualified under an applicable procedure once each calendar year at intervals not exceeding 15 months, or after any production joint is found unacceptable by testing under § 192.513.

NorthWestern's request for a waiver, in Docket No. PS08-002, as authorized by the Commission allowed for the following:

A person must be re-qualified under an applicable procedure at least once each calendar year, but at intervals not exceeding 15 months.

In addition, if a joiner has 1 joint under the procedure that is found to be unacceptable by testing under 49 CFR 192.513, that person must re-qualify under that procedure as an initial qualification.

Since NorthWestern's practices are consistent with the Pipeline Safety Regulations set forth in § 192.285(c), effective October 1, 2015, the alternative re-qualification schedule authorized in Docket No. PS08-002 is no longer necessary.

Sincerely,

**Melissa Baruth**

*DOT Supervisor*

[melissa.baruth@northwestern.com](mailto:melissa.baruth@northwestern.com)

☎ 605-353-7462

☎ 605-354-0241

Cc: Pamela Bonrud