

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT  
OF COMMISSION PIPELINE SAFETY STAFF  
AGAINST NORTHWESTERN ENERGY  
REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF THE  
FEDERAL PIPELINE SAFETY ACT

PS08-003

**RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW NorthWestern Energy, by and through its counsel of record, and for its response to the Commission Staff's Complaint in docket PS08-003, states as follows:

1. NorthWestern denies each and every fact, matter and thing alleged in the Staff's Complaint unless specifically admitted or qualified hereinafter.
2. NorthWestern admits that the Commission has jurisdiction as in paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
3. NorthWestern admits that there was an explosion on Bridle Drive in Mitchell, South Dakota in March of 2007.
4. NorthWestern admits that its facilities which were used to serve the Bridle Drive neighborhood exploded.
5. NorthWestern denies that it or its agent or anyone acting under its direction or control caused the explosion at issue or caused any damage to either the NorthWestern facilities or any property belonging to any other person.
6. NorthWestern denies that it failed to follow any applicable safety rules at any time and specifically in the post-explosion environment and affirmatively alleges that no property or casualty losses ensued as a result of any act of NorthWestern at any time at issue in the complaint.

WHEREFORE, NorthWestern prays the Commission will dismiss Staff's Complaint, hold it for naught and close the docket.

Dated this 11 day of August, 2008.

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above Response was served electronically upon the following on the 11 day of August, 2008 by emailing a true and correct copy thereof to them at their last known electronic addresses, to-wit:

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