

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF the Filing by
Commission Pipeline Safety Staff Regarding
Damage Prevention Programs

PS10-002

NorthWestern Corporation's
Petition to Intervene

NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission to grant NorthWestern Energy party status for intervention in this proceeding. In support of its Petition, NorthWestern Energy states as follows:

1. At the request of Public Utilities Commission Staff, the Commission has opened the above-captioned docket and hire experts to determine if damage prevention efforts in South Dakota can be improved.
2. As an investor-owned, rate-regulated public utility serving natural gas customers in South Dakota and functioning as a pipeline operator as part of its natural gas utility business, NorthWestern Energy as an affected party is subject to Commission oversight activities related to and Commission interpretation of applicable statutes regarding its Pipeline Safety Program. NorthWestern Energy requests intervention in order to participate fully in this matter.
3. The interests of NorthWestern Energy are unique and cannot be fully and adequately represented by the existing parties. NorthWestern Energy and its stakeholders and ratepayers may be directly affected by the issues raised in this proceeding and its outcome.

WHEREFORE, NorthWestern Energy respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition granting it party status in this proceeding.

Dated at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this 15th day of June, 2010.

NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION d/b/a
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY


Sara Greff Dannen
3010 West 69th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
(605) 978-2942
sara.dannen@northwestern.com

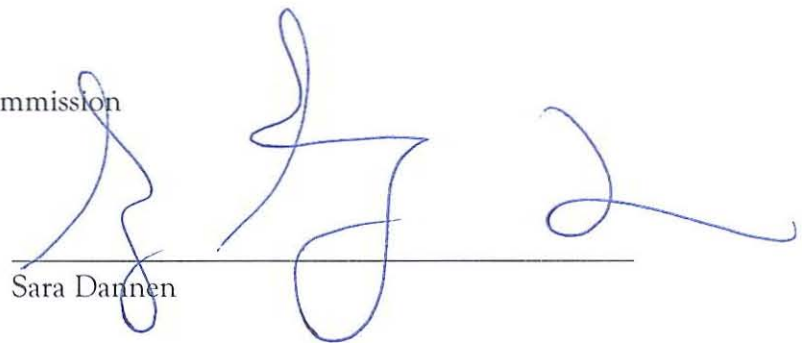
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Sara Dannen of NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy hereby certifies that on the 15th day of June, 2010, she transmitted electronically a true and correct copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known e-mail addresses, to-wit:

Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us

Kara Semmler, Staff Attorney
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
kara.semmler@state.sd.us

Nathan Solem, Staff Analyst
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
nathan.solem@state.sd.us



Sara Dannen