



Sara Greff Dannen
Corporate Counsel
Direct: (605) 978-2942
sara.dannen@northwestern.com

NorthWestern Corporation
d/b/a NorthWestern Energy
3010 W. 69th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
Telephone: (605) 978-2900
Facsimile: (605) 978-2919
www.northwesternenergy.com

January 17, 2012

via eFiling

Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: *In the Matter of the Filing by Commission Pipeline Safety Staff for Approval of a Penalty for a Pipeline Safety Violation by NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy - Docket PS11-002*

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed for filing please find NorthWestern Energy's Response to Staff's Request for Commission Approval of Penalty. By copy of this correspondence, the foregoing is being served upon persons identified on the Commission's service list, this being intended as service by electronic mail.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sara Greff Dannen

Sara Greff Dannen
Corporate Counsel

SGD/dq
Attachment
cc: Service List