

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)	ORDER GRANTING
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS)	APPROVAL OF AN
EXCEPTION BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN)	EXCEPTION TO THE
CORPORATION D/B/A NORTHWESTERN)	ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
ENERGY AND DOUGLAS ELECTRIC)	SERVICE TERRITORY
COOPERATIVE, INC.)	EL05-020

On May 24, 2005, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) and Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Douglas) filed a joint request for Commission approval of a service rights exception. The parties are requesting an exception, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-55 that would allow NorthWestern to serve the Calvin Baier residence in Douglas County, South Dakota, which is located within the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 15, Township 99 North, Range 64 West, Douglas County, South Dakota. The parties to this agreement agree that the public interest would be served by NorthWestern providing electrical service to the residence. Specifically, the parties state that it would eliminate and avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, allow the customer to receive adequate electric service, and promote the efficient and economical use and development of the electric systems as NorthWestern has existing facilities in close proximity to the customer and Douglas would need to construct approximately 1.5 miles of line to serve the customer. The customer has no objection to approval of the agreement.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 28, 2005, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that NorthWestern may provide electrical service to the Calvin Baier residence as it will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of NorthWestern and Douglas. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of August, 2005.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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, by facsimile or by first class mail in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u>Belaine Kolbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>8/3/05</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner