

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST) FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS) EXCEPTION BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN) CORPORATION D/B/A NORTHWESTERN) ENERGY AND BON HOMME YANKTON) ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.)	ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE ASSIGNED ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY EL06-015
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On May 18, 2006, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) and Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc. (Bon Homme Yankton) 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 Bon Homme Yankton to provide 3-phase electric service to an irrigation well located in the NW¼ of Section 1, Township 95 North, Range 58 West, Bon Homme County, South Dakota. The parties to this agreement agree that the public interest would be served by Bon Homme Yankton providing electric service to the well. The consent on the part of NWE is limited to the aforesaid service and will automatically terminate upon removal or abandonment of such service. The exception is not to be construed as having any impact upon or indicating any desire to change the service area assigned by the Commission. The customer has no objection to approval of the agreement.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 13, 2006, 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 Bon Homme Yankton may provide electrical service to the irrigation well 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 NWE and Bon Homme Yankton. 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 21st day of June, 2006.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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.
By: <u>Melaine Kelso</u>
Date: <u>6/23/06</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner