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 CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC CORPORATION AND NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	))))))	**ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE ASSIGNED ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY EL08-005**

On February 29, 2008, Northwestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) and Clay-Union Electric Corporation (Clay-Union) filed for Commission approval of a service exception between NWE and Clay-Union. Per customer request, NWE and Clay-Union propose to allow Clay-Union to provide electric service to the Midcontinent Communications Booster Station located in NWE territory near the Northwest Corner of the NW1/4 of Section 16, Township 93 North, Range 55 West of the Fifth P.M., Yankton County, South Dakota. The Booster Station is located next to a Clay-Union transformer pole while the NWE line is across the street.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 8, 2008, 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 Clay-Union may provide electrical service to the Midcontinent Communications Booster Station 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 Clay-Union. 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 9th day of April, 2008.

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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 4/11/08

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

GARY HANSON, Chairman

STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner