

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL)
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS)
)

ORDER APPROVING
CONTRACT WITH
DEVIATIONS

EL09-027

On December 23, 2009, NorthWestern Energy (Northwestern) filed an application for approval of a Contract with Deviation to upgrade a single-phase line to a three-phase line to adequately meet the needs of David Melius, 36106 – 151st Street, Cresbard, SD 57435. This project is necessary to service the multiple grain bins Mr. Melius plans to construct this winter. Northwestern filed the following tariff sheet for Commission approval:

5th Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 4th Revised Sheet No.1

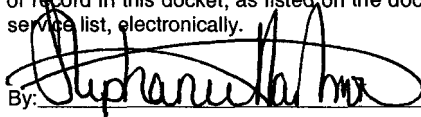
At its February 9, 2010, meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations and associated tariff changes. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11. Further, the Commission finds that Northwestern Energy's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations is just and reasonable and shall be approved for service rendered on and after February 9, 2010. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of a Contract with Deviations is in the public interest and is hereby granted; and it is further

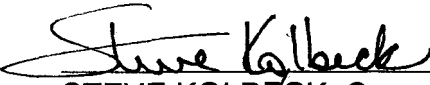
ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after February 9, 2010.


Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of February, 2010.

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, electronically.
By: 
Date: <u>02/11/10</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman


STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner