

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION, DBA )  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )  
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS )  
)**

**ORDER APPROVING  
CONTRACT WITH  
DEVIATIONS**

**EL11-016**

On June 21, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation, dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of a contract with deviations. The proposed contract would provide electric service to an agricultural business with the customer paying a portion of the cost to extend service to the customer's location. Inclusion of these costs would place the charges outside the tariffed rates currently on file with the Commission. NorthWestern has requested an effective date of July 26, 2011. On June 23, 2011, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 8, 2011, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Electric Rate Schedule

Section 4

8<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 7<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 26, 2011, the Commission considered this matter. 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, 49-38A-8.3, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, and ARSD 20:10:13:20. Further, the Commission finds that NorthWestern's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations and associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable and shall be approved for service rendered on or after July 26, 2011. 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 effective for services rendered on and after July 26, 2011.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011.

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| <b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>  |
| 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: <u><i>Janet Ardahl</i></u>   |
| Date: <u>7-28-11</u>   |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL)  |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Gary Hanson*

GARY HANSON, Chairman

*Chris Nelson*

CHRIS NELSON, Vice Chairman