

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A)	CONTRACT WITH
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL)	DEVIATIONS AND
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH)	APPROVING TARIFF
ABERDEEN ENERGY LLC)	REVISIONS
)	NG08-001

On February 12, 2008, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of a contract with deviations to serve Aberdeen Energy LLC., an ethanol production facility located near Mina, South Dakota. The Customer is a large volume user (approximately 8,600 MMBtu per day). Approximately seven miles of pipeline will be required to be built to serve this customer. The "deviation" from its tariff under the proposed Contract includes the Customer's contribution for the Company's investment in line extensions and the variance in rate due to the large volumes consumed by the customer. On May 2, 2008, NWE filed an updated tariff sheet for Commission approval:

Section No. 4, 20th Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling 19th Revised Sheet No. 1

On May 6, 2008, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations. Commission Staff recommended approval with the condition that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket and that Conditions 10, 11, 12, and 13 as found in NG07-013 are incorporated herein by reference.

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 NWE's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations is just and reasonable and shall be approved, with the condition that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket. 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, with the condition that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket; and it is further

ORDERED, that Conditions 10, 11, 12, and 13 as found in NG07-013 are incorporated herein by reference; and it is further

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved, effective June 1, 2008.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of May, 2008.

<p style="text-align: center;">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, electronically.</p> <p>By: <u> <i>Delaine Kalbo</i> </u></p> <p>Date: <u> <i>5/9/08</i> </u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

 Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

 Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner