

**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 TO REVISE THE RATES )  
INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACTS WITH DEVIATIONS )  
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED IN DOCKETS NG10-003, )  
NG10-004, NG10-005, AND NG10-006 )

**ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT  
AND TARIFF REVISIONS**

NG11-005

On September 14, 2011, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of revisions to the rates approved in dockets NG10-003, NG10-004, NG10-005, and NG10-006 which are all Contracts with Deviations entered into with South Dakota Wheat Growers (Wheat Growers) at facilities located in Aberdeen, Willow Lake, Andover and Yale, respectively. The initial rates approved in the prior filings were based on estimates of the cost to extend and upgrade facilities to serve these customers. The final cost for providing service to the customers has been determined and is significantly lower than originally estimated. NWE and Wheat Growers have agreed to new lower rates for service provided under each of these contracts which reflect the actual lower costs. NWE has requested approval with less than 30 days notice. The revised tariff sheet is as follow:

Section No.4, 6<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No.2, Canceling 5<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No.2

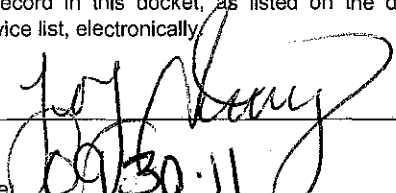
On September 27, 2011, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the contract and tariff revisions.

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, and 49-34A-11. Further, the Commission finds that NWE's request for approval of the revised Contracts with Deviations and associated tariff sheet, with less than 30 days notice, is just and reasonable and shall be approved for service rendered on or after October 1, 2011. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

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

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved with less than 30 days notice and is effective for services rendered on and after October 1, 2011.

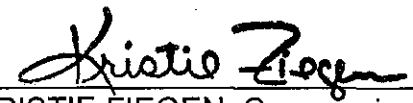
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30 day of September 2011.

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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:  |  |
| Date:  | 09/30/11  |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL)  |   |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner