

**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 WITH VALLEY)
QUEEN CHEESE FACTORY, INC.)

ORDER APPROVING
CONTRACT WITH
DEVIATIONS AND TARIFF
REVISIONS

NG18-008

On April 25, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of a contract with deviations with Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc. (Valley Queen). Valley Queen, an existing customer on NorthWestern's natural gas system, is expanding its factory and desires additional natural gas capacity. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it will require a minimum annual volume obligation for the term of the agreement to guarantee the recovery of the capital investment costs and protect legacy customers. NorthWestern requests an effective date for the tariff revisions of June 1, 2018.

On April 26, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of May 11, 2018, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

12th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 11th Revised Sheet No. 2

The Commission 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.

At its regular meeting on May 29, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Valley Queen and the associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations and to approve the associated tariff revisions with an effective date of June 1, 2018. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Valley Queen is hereby granted with an effective date of June 1, 2018. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Valley Queen is approved, effective June 1, 2018.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1st day of June 2018.

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 or by mail.

By: Adam Lettueck

Date: 6/1/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner