

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )  
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION )  
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S )  
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF ITS )  
2016 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT )  
PLAN )

**ORDER APPROVING 2016  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BUDGET**

**EL16-011**

On March 29, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), requesting approval of its proposed 2016 Economic Development Budget in accordance with the Settlement Stipulation in EL14-106.

On March 31, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 15, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On April 13, 2015, NorthWestern responded to Commission staff's data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. After review of the proposed budget, the Commission found the proposed contributions set forth therein to be just and reasonable and voted unanimously to approve NorthWestern's 2016 Economic Development Budget. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's 2016 Economic Development Budget is approved as filed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of May, 2016.

<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 or by mail.
By: <u>Rayne West</u>
Date: <u>5-2-16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner