

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT BY)
JUHL ENERGY, INC. AGAINST)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR)
ESTABLISHING A PURCHASE POWER)
AGREEMENT)**

**ORDER AUTHORIZING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
ENTER INTO A CONSULTING
CONTRACT**

EL16-021

On June 23, 2016, Juhl Energy, Inc. (Juhl) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Complaint seeking resolution of a dispute with NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) regarding the proper avoided cost for a long-term electric power purchase agreement. On August 4, 2016, the Parties filed a Joint Request for a Procedural Schedule. At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 16, 2016, the Commission established a Procedural Schedule.

On June 30, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 25, 2016, to interested persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 824a-n, and SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-13, and 49-34A.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission give the Executive Director authority to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$38,000. The Commission voted unanimously to give the Executive Director authority to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$38,000. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Executive Director is authorized to enter into a consulting contract not to exceed \$38,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of November, 2016.

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: <u>Adam deHueck</u>
Date: <u>11/3/16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner