

**EXHIBIT A****REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), and pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, requests confidential treatment as follows:

- 1) The documents for which confidential treatment is requested are the Electric Service Agreement between Norman Hettich (the "Customer"), dated September 12, 2011 (the "Contract"), and the work papers containing the Company's anticipated costs to construct facilities to the Customer's facilities;
- 2) The Company requests that such confidential treatment be afforded the Contract and work papers indefinitely, or a minimum of ten years
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

Jeffrey Decker  
Regulatory Analyst  
NorthWestern Energy  
600 Market Street West  
Huron, SD 57350  
(605) 353-8315

Pamela Bonrud  
Director -- SD/NE Government and Regulatory Affairs  
NorthWestern Energy  
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- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Contract and Work papers provide proprietary information concerning both the Company and the Customer, including the pricing of electric service, the costs of construction for the facilities to serve the Customer, etc. Sharing this information to third parties may provide competitive advantages to the competitors for both NorthWestern and the Customer.
- 5) As a factual basis in support of this request, please see the response to item 4) above.