



October 5, 2016

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD, 57501

RE: Customer Data Privacy Electric Tariffs
Docket No. EL16-_____

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

With this letter, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern"), is filing with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (the "Commission") proposed Customer Data Privacy Tariffs for its Electric utility. NorthWestern respectfully requests Commission approval of these proposed tariffs.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:39, the Company states:

1. The documents submitted with this filing include:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Electric Tariff | Section No. 1, Revised Sheet No. 2 |
| Electric Tariff | Section No. 5, Original Sheet No. 14 |
| Electric Tariff | Section No. 5, Original Sheet No. 15 |
| Electric Tariff | Section No. 5, Original Sheet No. 16 |

The proposed effective date for the tariff revisions is December 1, 2016.

2. Brief description of the tariff changes:

Electric tariff sheets 14 through 16 in Section 5 of the existing tariffs provide the proposed language for Commission approval regarding NorthWestern's management and protection of customer data it collects through normal business practices. Electric tariff Section 1, Revised Sheet 2, is the updated Table of Contents to reflect the requested tariff additions in this filing.

3. Reasons for the proposed tariff changes:

The purpose of this filing is to recognize the important role NorthWestern plays in protecting customer data in its possession and meeting our customers' expectations in protecting their privacy. The proposed tariffs follow industry standards and balance the need to protect customer privacy while allowing



NorthWestern to conduct necessary business transactions in providing top quality utility services to its customers.

4. Number of customers whose cost of service will be affected by the proposed tariff language.

All electric customers of NorthWestern Energy will be affected by the proposed tariff language.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Bonrud

Director Government and Regulatory Affairs

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