



October 27, 2017

*via eFiling*

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street N.E.  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: *NorthWestern Corporation (South Dakota)*, Docket No. ER18-\_\_\_\_-000 [ER18-172-000](#)

Rate Schedule No. 39-SD | Certificate of Concurrence to Big Stone Plant Transmission  
Facilities Agreement and Supplements

Dear Secretary Bose:

Pursuant to Section 205 of the Federal Power Act<sup>1</sup>, Part 35 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations<sup>2</sup>, and Order No. 714<sup>3</sup>, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy submits a Certificate of Concurrence, as Rate Schedule No. 39-SD, to the Big Stone Plant Transmission Facilities Agreement between Otter Tail Power Company, Montana–Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), and Northwestern Public Service Company (NorthWestern Energy's predecessor<sup>4</sup>) ("Big Stone Transmission Agreement"), dated as of April 3, 1972, as supplemented. The Big Stone Transmission Agreement was filed with the Commission on October 24, 2017, in Docket No. ER18-153-000.

## **I. Background of Filing Party**

---

NorthWestern Energy is a public utility engaged in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity and the supply and transportation of natural gas. Its facilities are located primarily

---

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. § 824d (2012).

<sup>2</sup> 18 C.F.R. Part 35 (2013).

<sup>3</sup> *Electronic Tariff Filings*, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,276 (2008) (Order No. 714).

<sup>4</sup> Effective February 15, 2002, NorthWestern Energy succeeded to all tariffs, rate schedules, supplements, and service agreements of NorthWestern Public Service Company. *NorthWestern Energy*, Docket No. ER03-376-000 (Feb. 13, 2003) (letter order accepting Notice of Succession reflecting corporate name change).



in Montana and South Dakota. In South Dakota, NorthWestern Energy is a transmission owner within the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. and has transferred functional control of a large portion of its electric transmission facilities there to SPP. In Montana, NorthWestern Energy is a transmission owner/operator and Balancing Authority Area operator within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. NorthWestern Energy's Montana and South Dakota transmission facilities are not physically connected and are not in the same electric reliability region. This filing concerns NorthWestern Energy's South Dakota operations.

## II. Description of Filing

---

On October 24, 2017, Otter Tail filed the Big Stone Transmission Agreement as the "designated filer" under the Joint Tariff Filing procedures outlined in Order No. 714. Under these procedures, when multiple utilities are parties to the same tariff, the joint tariff may be filed by a single designated utility, and any non-designated utilities must submit a certificate of concurrence and a single tariff page containing the name of the tariff and the utility designated to file the joint tariff on behalf of the other utilities.<sup>5</sup> Consistent with Order No. 714, NorthWestern Energy submits the attached Certificate of Concurrence for the Big Stone Transmission Agreement filed by Otter Tail in Docket No. ER18-153-000.<sup>6</sup> In addition, NorthWestern Energy includes a single tariff page incorporating by reference into its database the Big Stone Transmission Agreement. NorthWestern Energy requests the Commission accept the single tariff page as Rate Schedule No. 39-SD.

## III. Effective Date & Request for Waiver

---

As described in the transmittal letter<sup>7</sup> submitted by Otter Tail, the parties to the Big Stone Transmission Agreement respectfully request an effective date of April 3, 1972, for the Big Stone Transmission Agreement. For the reasons outlined in that transmittal letter, NorthWestern Energy respectfully requests waiver of the Commission's prior notice requirement<sup>8</sup> to allow this effective date.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> Order No. 714 at PP 61–63.

<sup>6</sup> MDU's Certificate of Concurrence was filed on October 25, 2017, in Docket No. ER18-161-000.

<sup>7</sup> Accession No. 20171024-5155.

<sup>8</sup> 18 C.F.R. § 35.11.

<sup>9</sup> Due to the constraints inherent in the Commission's eTariff system, the "metadata" effective date of an eTariff record cannot be earlier than the date of the filing utility's baseline eTariff. Because NorthWestern Energy filed its baseline eTariff on September 29, 2010, the eTariff metadata submitted for this filing reflects this date. However, NorthWestern Energy submits that metadata expressly without prejudice to the request above for the April 3, 1972 effective date and associated waivers.



## IV. Filing Information

---

This filing includes the following documents:

- 1) This transmittal letter;
- 2) Certificate of Concurrence; and
- 3) Single tariff record incorporating by reference the Big Stone Transmission Agreement, identified as NorthWestern Energy's Rate Schedule No. 39-SD.

## V. Notice and Service

---

NorthWestern Energy will provide a copy of this filing to Otter Tail, MDU, and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. In addition, this filing is available for public inspection at NorthWestern Energy's Corporate Office, 3010 West 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

## VI. Communications

---

Communications concerning this filing should be directed to the following representatives:

Michael Cashell  
Vice President – Transmission  
NorthWestern Energy  
11 East Park  
Butte, MT 59701  
Telephone: (406) 497-4575  
michael.cashell@northwestern.com

M. Andrew McLain  
Director – Transmission Market Strategy &  
FERC Compliance Officer  
NorthWestern Energy  
208 N. Montana Avenue, Suite 205  
Helena, MT 59601  
Phone: (406) 443-8987  
andrew.mclain@northwestern.com

## VII. Conclusion

---

NorthWestern Energy respectfully requests that the Commission accept the Big Stone Transmission Agreement, as requested by Otter Tail, and also requests the Commission accept the single tariff page submitted in this filing as NorthWestern Energy's Rate Schedule No. 39-SD.



Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ *M. Andrew McLain*

**M. Andrew McLain**

*Director – Transmission Market Strategy & FERC Compliance Officer*

andrew.mclain@northwestern.com

📞 (406) 443-8987

MAM/dq

Attachment

cc: Otter Tail Power Company  
Montana–Dakota Utilities Co.  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



## Certificate of Service

---

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated in the foregoing transmittal letter, in accordance with Rule 2010 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 C.F.R. § 385.2010.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

*s/ Dori L. Quam*

Dori Quam

Lead – Transmission Regulatory Support

dori.quam@northwestern.com

United States of America  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**Certificate of Concurrence of  
NorthWestern Corporation**

This is to certify that NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy assents to and concurs in the rate schedule described below, which Otter Tail Power Company has filed, and hereby files this Certificate of Concurrence in lieu of the filing of the rate schedule specified.

**Joint Tariff Name:** Big Stone Plant Transmission Facilities Agreement

**NorthWestern Rate Schedule No.:** RS 39-SD

**Designated Filing Company (DFC):** Otter Tail Power Company

**DFC Tariff Title:** Tariff Database

**DCF Program:** Electric TCS and MBR

**DCF Tariff Record:** TFA - Big Stone, Big Stone Plant Transmission Facilities Agreement - MDU NWPS

Respectfully submitted,

**NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a  
NorthWestern Energy**

*s/ M. Andrew McLain*

M. Andrew McLain  
Director – Transmission Market Strategy &  
FERC Compliance Officer

Dated: October 27, 2017

**NorthWestern Corporation (South Dakota)**

**Rate Schedule FERC No. 39-SD**

<b>Joint Tariff Name:</b>	Big Stone Plant Transmission Facilities Agreement
<b>Designated Filing Company (DFC):</b>	Otter Tail Power Company
<b>DFC Tariff Title:</b>	Tariff Database
<b>DCF Program:</b>	Electric TCS and MBR
<b>DCF Tariff Record:</b>	TFA - Big Stone, Big Stone Plant Transmission Facilities Agreement - MDU NWPS