



August 17, 2021

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Docket No. GE20-002 - NorthWestern Energy Request to Withdraw

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On May 1, 2020, NorthWestern Corporation, dba NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern” or the “Company”), joined with other investor owned utilities asking the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to approve a regulatory asset for the purpose of accumulating costs relating to COVID-19. NorthWestern requested approval of a regulatory asset to accumulate costs related to bad debt only. On August 19, 2020, the Commission issued its order to allow for deferred accounting treatment and the creation of a regulatory asset for these costs beginning March 13, 2020. NorthWestern filed quarterly updates with the Commission on October 30, 2020 and January 29, 2021.

On June 15, 2021, NorthWestern filed an update in this matter notifying the Commission that any bad debt costs that were accrued beginning on March 13, 2020 were written off in its May 2021 business and that it had not accrued any additional bad debt costs into the regulatory asset beginning on December 31, 2020. NorthWestern also stated it would not pursue recovery of these costs in a future rate case. Therefore, NorthWestern respectfully requests the Commission allow the Company to withdraw from Docket No. GE20-002.

NorthWestern appreciates the Commission’s and Staff’s assistance in working with us during this pandemic. If there are any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Bonrud

Director-Government and Regulatory Affairs

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