

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 Contract between NorthWestern and the Lake Preston Cooperative (the "Customer"), dated July 13, 2007 (the "Contract"), and the Appendix 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 Workpapers indefinitely, or, at a minimum, for ten years;
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

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- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Contract and Workpapers provide proprietary information concerning both the Company and the Customer, including the costs of construction for the facilities to serve the Customer. 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.