

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS RATES)

JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

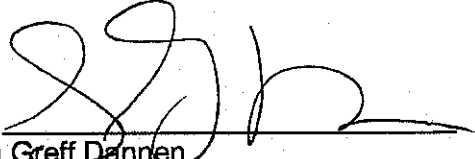
NG11-003

NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NWE) and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission Staff), jointly referred to as "Parties," hereby file the above-referenced Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties request the Commission adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all of the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

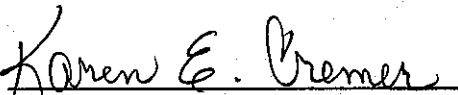
1. This Joint Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation represents a negotiated settlement and thereby resolves all of the issues in Docket NG11-003.
3. The terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the Commission to: 1) adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation without modification for the purpose of resolving all issues in this rate proceeding, and 2) enter an Order finding that the attached Settlement Stipulation results in just and reasonable rates for customers of NWE.

NorthWestern Energy

BY: 
Sara Greff Dannen
Corporate Counsel
NorthWestern Energy
3010 W. 69th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

South Dakota Public Utilities
Commission

BY: 
Karen E. Cremer
Staff Attorney
State Capitol Building
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

DATED: 11/4/11

DATED: 11/04/2011