



March 23, 2020

Patty Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capital
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Request to Delay Filing Date for NorthWestern Energy's Economic 2020 Development Budget

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern") to develop its response effort to COVID-19, I am respectfully requesting the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to allow a one week grace period for filing our 2020 economic development budget and 2019 expense reports. Commission orders approving the Settlement Stipulation Agreements in Dockets NG11-003 and EL14-106 established an annual filing date of March 31st for NorthWestern to submit its yearly economic development budget and actual expenses for review and approval. NorthWestern requests that we be allowed to file on April 7, 2020 to accommodate recent actions taken by the company in response to COVID-19.

As of March 19, 2020, approximately 40% of our company workforce moved into "Persistent Work from Home" status. This reallocation of our workforce from working on-site in our facilities to working from home was an unexpected but socially necessary disruption to our day to day work activities. We are happy to report that the transition is moving along quite well, but we are still making some adjustments in how we approach our day to day work activities. A one-week delay to file our economic development reports would allow us a slight reprieve for preparing the required filing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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Cc: Rick Edwards, Director Community Connections, NorthWestern Energy
Paul Mantz, Specialist Key Accounts & Economic Development, NorthWestern Energy