

**Docket Number:** NG17-006  
**Subject Matter:** First Data Request  
**Request to:** NorthWestern Energy  
**Request from:** South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff  
**Date of Request:** 4/7/17  
**Responses Due:** 4/20/17

- 1-1. How many existing customers on NorthWestern's system are eligible to have an EFV installs as a result of this rule?

**NorthWestern Response:** Based on the 2016 annual PHMSA Form 7100, NorthWestern has 48,607 natural gas services in South Dakota and 3,230 EFV installed. Of those 48,607 services, NorthWestern's customer billing system categorizes 39,681 services as residential, thus making them eligible for an EFV. Depending on natural gas load, a portion of the remaining commercial customers would also be eligible for an EFV. EFV are not commercially available to accommodate extremely large natural gas loads, such as loads greater than 9 million BTU, but small commercial loads are also eligible.

- 1-2. Has NorthWestern developed any projection for customer requests for EFV's over the next 5 years? If so, what is NorthWestern anticipating for requests?

**NorthWestern Response:** Although NorthWestern has no historical or test data to quantify customer interest, we anticipate the customer requests for EFVs on established natural gas services will be very low. Upon completion of the initial offering in 2017, NorthWestern will have a more solid gauge of customer interest in EFVs. The PHMSA rule requires an EFV be installed if commercially available for all new construction services installed after April 14, 2017. As of April 13, there have been no requests for EFV installation on existing services.

- 1-3. Does NorthWestern have an EFV cost analysis worksheet or cost estimate sheet that will be used to provide an estimate to a requesting customer? If so, provide the calculations to be used in providing an estimate to the customer.

**NorthWestern Response:** NorthWestern will provide a cost quote to each customer who requests an EFV based on the parameters of each individual scenario. Labor estimates will vary among quotes depending on current service type (steel, plastic), surface type (grass, asphalt, concrete) and restoration. The final cost charged to the customer will be based on actual costs incurred for the EFV installation. Labor and material costs will be charged using the methodology currently in place for a customer initiated service move.