

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )	CONTRACT WITH
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )	DEVIATIONS
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH )	AND APPROVING
CRYSTAL SPRINGS FEEDS, LLC )	TARIFF REVISION
)	
)	<b>NG21-005</b>

On August 20, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for approval of a contract with deviations with Crystal Springs Feeds, LLC (Crystal Springs). Crystal Springs desires to have natural gas service extended to its location to serve its heating and grain processing requirements. NorthWestern will run a gas line approximately 1.3 miles to serve the new customer. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it requires security for the capital investment cost and a monthly surcharge in order to protect its legacy customers. The contract includes recovery of the pipeline project costs over a 15-year period. The project costs and tariff delivery charges will be recovered through a fixed monthly charge based on projected annual volumes, with an annual review conducted to determine if volumes exceed the projected amount. Any overages will be billed at the tariff rate 87B. NorthWestern requests approval with an effective date for the tariff revisions of October 1, 2021. NorthWestern also proposes to remove the listing of South Dakota Wheat Growers customers due to the completion of their contract obligations.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

16<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 15<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 2

On August 26, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 10, 2021, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-38A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11.

At its regular meeting on September 14, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Crystal Springs and the associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations and to approve the associated tariff sheet with an effective date of October 1, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Crystal Springs is hereby granted with an effective date of October 1, 2021. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Crystal Springs and the removal of South Dakota Wheat Growers is hereby approved, effective October 1, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>09/15/21</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner