

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA )</b>	<b>WITH DEVIATIONS AND TARIFF</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )</b>	<b>REVISIONS</b>
<b>OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH )</b>	
<b>BRIGHTMARK FULL CIRCLE RNG, LLC )</b>	<b>NG21-008</b>

On October 12, 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 Brightmark Full Circle RNG, LLC (Brightmark). Brightmark desires to have NorthWestern install a natural gas pipeline that is approximately 8 miles in length. This pipeline will be used to transport renewable natural gas from the dairy farm it is being produced at, to an interconnection point roughly 2 miles north of Parker, South Dakota. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it requires fixed monthly charge, take or pay volumes, and a security for the capital investment cost in order to protect its legacy customers. NorthWestern has also included natural gas quality standards Brightmark must achieve to have gas transported in the pipeline. The contract includes recovery of the pipeline project costs over a 15-year period and project costs will be recovered through a fixed monthly charge. An annual review will be conducted to determine if volumes have met the required take or pay amount. All volume charges will be billed at the tariff rate 87. On December 2, 2021, NorthWestern filed an Amended Agreement and responded to Staff's Data Request.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

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

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

On October 14, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 29, 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 in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11.

At its regular meeting on December 8, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Brightmark Full Circle RNG, LLC 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 December 8, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Brightmark Full Circle RNG, LLC is hereby granted with an effective date of December 8, 2021. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Brightmark Full Circle RNG, LLC is approved, effective December 8, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Adam DeHueck*  
*12/13/21*

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Chris Nelson*  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

*Kristie Fiegen*  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner