

**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 AND
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH)	APPROVING TARIFF
BRIGHTMARK MILL VALLEY RNG LLC)	REVISIONS
)	
)	
)	NG21-010

On November 17, 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 Mill Valley RNG LLC (Brightmark). Brightmark desires to have NorthWestern install a natural gas pipeline that is approximately 3 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 1 mile south of Milbank, 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. NorthWestern requests an effective date of December 21, 2021.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

18th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 17th Revised Sheet No. 2

On November 18, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 3, 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 21, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Brightmark Mill Valley 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 21, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Brightmark Mill Valley RNG, LLC is hereby granted with an effective date of December 21, 2021. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Brightmark Mill Valley RNG, LLC is approved, effective December 21, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd 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: Adam De Hueck

Date: 12/22/21

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner