

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR AN)	ORDER GRANTING
ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION)	APPROVAL OF AN
BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN ENERGY AND)	EXCEPTION TO THE
CODINGTON-CLARK ELECTRIC)	ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.)	SERVICE TERRITORY
)	EL03-011

On March 13, 2003, NorthWestern Energy and Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. filed a joint request for approval from the Public Utilities Commission for release of a customer from Codington-Clark to NorthWestern at a very specific, currently unoccupied, former farmstead building site located in the SW 1/4 of Section 16, T115N, R55W, Hamlin County, South Dakota, ownership of which belongs to Bruce H. Kidman and others. The customer is located 3 miles West of the Town of Hazel in the SW 1/4 of Section 16, Township 115 North, Range 55 West, Hamlin County, South Dakota. NorthWestern has an existing overhead power line approximately 1500 feet South of the customer along the South side of said Section 16. Codington-Clark's closest power line is approximately 2 miles to the North and East of the customer.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 1, 2003, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted, effective April 5, 2003.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of April, 2003.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Melaine Kalbs</u>
Date: <u>4/9/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner