

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

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) | ORDER APPROVING |
| NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL) | CONTRACT WITH |
| OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS AND) | DEVIATIONS |
| APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS) | NG04-009 |

On August 31, 2004, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of its 7th Revised Sheet No. 1 of Section 4 of NWE's filed Natural Gas Tariff. The revised schedule lists an additional Contract with Deviations pursuant to which NWE proposes to provide natural gas service to Northern Lights Ethanol Plant for its boiler and dryer. NWE requested the contract rates become effective with meter readings on and after October 1, 2004. With this filing NWE is removing Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Big Stone Cheese and South Dakota Soybean Processors from its contract with deviations tariff sheet.

On September 30, 2004, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11. Further, the Commission finds that NWE's request for approval of a Contract with Deviations is just and reasonable and shall be approved for service rendered on and after October 1, 2004. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that as of the date of this Order, the request seeking approval of a Contract with Deviations is in the public interest and is hereby granted; and it is further

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after October 1, 2004.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of October, 2004.

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| 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>Alaino Kolbo</u> |
| Date: <u>10/5/04</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner