

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER APPROVING</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION D/B/A )</b>	<b>CONTRACT WITH</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )</b>	<b>DEVIATIONS</b>
<b>OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH )</b>	
<b>PRAIRIE ETHANOL PLANT, LLC )</b>	<b>NG06-003</b>
<b>)</b>	

On April 11, 2006, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of a contract with deviations with Prairie Ethanol Plant, LLC (Prairie Ethanol) to recover costs of constructing facilities in order to provide natural gas delivery service to Prairie Ethanol located at Loomis, South Dakota. On June 5, 2006, the Commission received revisions to the original filing from NWE. NWE filed the following tariff sheet for Commission approval:

Section No. 4, 10<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling 9<sup>th</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1

On June 6, 2006, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the Contract with Deviations. Commission Staff recommended approval, conditioned upon NWE providing a report to the Commission of all costs of constructing the pipeline extension upon completion and that the Commission finds that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket.

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 June 1, 2006, conditioned upon NWE providing a report to the Commission of all costs of constructing the pipeline extension upon completion and that the Commission finds that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket. Commissioner Hansen abstained from voting. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of a Contract with Deviations is in the public interest and is hereby granted, conditioned upon NWE providing a report to the Commission of all costs of constructing the pipeline extension upon completion and that the Commission finds that this approval does not pre-determine a Commission decision at the time of future rate case proceedings regarding rate treatment concerning possible cost recovery shortfalls resulting from rates approved in this docket; and it is further

ORDERED, that the above-mentioned tariff is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after June 1, 2006.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2006.

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: *Deldino Kalbs*

Date: 6/26/06

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Robert K. Sahr*

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

*Dustin M. Johnson*

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner