

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL)	CONTRACT WITH
OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH)	DEVIATIONS AND
GREAT PLAINS ETHANOL, LLC)	APPROVING TARIFF
)	REVISIONS
)	NG07-003

On March 9, 2007, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requesting approval of a contract with deviations and associated tariff revisions. NWE is proposing to adopt the contract that was in effect between Great Plains Ethanol, LLC and NorthWestern Services Group. The rate that is currently contracted between the customer and NWE will not change. The original contract was dated September 2, 2002, with a term of 15 years beginning at plant start-up. Over the past year, NWE has evaluated its non-regulated businesses and has looked at the strategic value of each entity versus the resources that are dedicated to these business units. After a thorough evaluation of the non-regulated gas business in SD/NE, it has been decided by the Northwestern Services, LLC management committee to execute a strategy to shift the majority of this business (Nekota Resources, LLC) into the regulated utility and look at alternatives to divest the rest of this business. NWE filed the following tariff sheet for Commission approval:

Section No. 4, 12th Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling 11th Revised Sheet No. 1

On March 27, 2007, 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, with the condition 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. 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, with the condition 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 April 1, 2007.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of April, 2007.

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.

By:

Delaine Kolbo

Date:

4/10/07

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner