

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF)
A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH NOVITA)
AURORA, LLC)

ORDER APPROVING
CONTRACT WITH
DEVIATIONS AND
TARIFF SHEET

NG16-003

On March 23, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of a contract with deviations and associated tariff revisions to construct a natural gas line to serve Novita Aurora, LLC (Novita). Novita will be a new customer on NorthWestern's natural gas system near Aurora, South Dakota. Novita is building an ag processing plant and requires natural gas transportation service. Novita will be served under Rate 87 tariff rates with deviations from some of the general terms and conditions within the tariff. The contract with deviations provides for additional protections for NorthWestern and its legacy customers. The revised tariff sheet is as follow:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

8th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 7th Revised Sheet No. 2

On March 24, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 8, 2016, 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 over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, and ARSD 20:10:13:09 and 20:10:13:10.

At its regular meeting on April 27, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations and the associated tariff sheet is just and reasonable, and in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NorthWestern's request for a contract with deviations and approve the associated tariff sheet with an effective date of May 1, 2016. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations is hereby granted with an effective date of May 1, 2016. It is further

ORDERED, that the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect this contract with deviations is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of May, 2016.

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: <u>Rolayne Wiest</u>
Date: <u>5-2-16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner