

**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 DBA )</b>	<b>CONTRACT WITH</b>
<b>NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL )</b>	<b>DEVIATIONS</b>
<b>OF A CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS WITH )</b>	<b>AND APPROVING</b>
<b>PRAIRIE ETHANOL, LLC AND REMOVAL OF )</b>	<b>TARIFF SHEET</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA WHEAT GROWERS )</b>	
<b>CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS )</b>	<b>NG16-015</b>

On December 16, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval for a contract with deviations with Prairie Ethanol, LLC and to remove South Dakota Wheat Growers from the list of contract with deviations due to that contract with deviations expiring. Prairie Ethanol, LLC has reached the expiration date of its initial contract. NorthWestern desires to provide this customer with continuing natural gas service and has negotiated a new contract with deviations. NorthWestern states the new rate will allow NorthWestern to maintain Prairie Ethanol, LLC as a customer, which will benefit not only Prairie Ethanol, LLC, but also NorthWestern and its natural gas customers, through recovery of administrative and general costs and common costs from this customer. NorthWestern requests approval on less than thirty days' notice with an effective date for the tariff revisions of January 3, 2017.

On December 22, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 30, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

23<sup>rd</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 22<sup>nd</sup> Revised Sheet No. 1

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-38A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11.

At its regular meeting on January 3, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Prairie Ethanol, LLC and the associated tariff sheet, including removal of the expired contract with deviations, is just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to grant NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations and to approve the associated tariff sheet on less than 30 days' notice with an effective date of January 3, 2017. Commissioner Hanson recused himself from participation in this matter.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Prairie Ethanol, LLC is hereby granted with an effective date of January 3, 2017. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Prairie Ethanol, LLC and the removal of the expired South Dakota Wheat Growers contract with deviations is approved on less than 30 days' notice, effective January 3, 2017.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>01/04/2017</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner