

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA)	AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF)	WITH
AN AMENDMENT TO A CONTRACT WITH)	DEVIATIONS AND
DEVIATIONS WITH NOVITA AURORA, LLC)	TARIFF SHEET
)	
)	NG17-018

On December 15, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of an amendment to a contract with deviations with Novita Aurora, LLC (Novita). In Docket NG16-003, the Commission approved the contract with deviations with Novita. NorthWestern installed a natural gas line to serve Novita in 2016 in accordance with the requirements of the agreement. Based on the estimated cost of the project, NorthWestern required both security for the anticipated capital investment and take or pay volumes in order to protect its legacy customers. Actual project costs were much lower than the original projection and Novita also overestimated the annual usage of the processing facility. NorthWestern desires to adequately secure recovery of its investment without causing undue burden upon Novita. Therefore, NorthWestern and Novita have agreed to reduce the annual take or pay volumes to more closely match the needed recovery of the reduced capital investment and clarify Novita's actual usage of natural gas. NorthWestern states that upon amending the original volume requirement, Novita is treated fairly and existing NorthWestern customers remain unharmed.

On December 21, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 5, 2018, 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

10th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 9th Revised Sheet No. 2

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 January 16, 2018, 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 approval of an amendment to a contract with deviations and approve the associated tariff sheet with an effective date of January 16, 2018. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of an amendment to a contract with deviations with Novita Aurora, LLC is hereby granted with an effective date of January 16, 2018. It is further

ORDERED, that the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect this amended contract with deviations is approved, effective January 16, 2018.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of January 2018.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</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. Cremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>1/22/18</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner