

**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) GREAT PLAINS ETHANOL, LLC))))	ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS AND APPROVING TARIFF SHEET NG18-003
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On February 5, 2018, 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 Great Plains Ethanol, LLC (Great Plains Ethanol). Great Plains Ethanol 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 Great Plains Ethanol as a customer, which will benefit not only Great Plains Ethanol but also NorthWestern and its natural gas customers through recovery of administrative and general costs and common costs from this customer. NorthWestern also proposes to remove Millennium Ethanol, LLC (Millennium Ethanol) from the list of contracts with deviations, as that contract has expired. NorthWestern requests approval on less than thirty days' notice with an effective date for the tariff revisions of March 1, 2018.

On February 8, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 21, 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

24th Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 23rd 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 February 22, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Great Plains Ethanol and the associated tariff sheet, including removal of the expired contract with deviations with Millennium Ethanol, 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 March 1, 2018.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Great Plains Ethanol is hereby granted with an effective date of March 1, 2018. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Great Plains Ethanol and the removal of the expired Millennium Ethanol contract with deviations is approved on less than 30 days' notice, effective March 1, 2018.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of February 2018.

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: Karen E. Cremes

Date: 02/28/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner