

**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)
JAMES VALLEY ETHANOL, LLC DBA POET)
BIOREFINING - GROTON)

ORDER APPROVING
CONTRACT WITH
DEVIATIONS AND
APPROVING
TARIFF SHEET

NG18-007

On March 30, 2018, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) requesting approval of a contract with deviations with James Valley Ethanol, LLC dba POET Biorefining - Groton (James Valley Ethanol). James Valley 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 James Valley Ethanol as a customer, which will benefit not only James Valley Ethanol but also NorthWestern and its natural gas customers, through recovery of administrative and general costs and common costs from this customer. NorthWestern requests an effective date for the tariff revisions of May 1, 2018. The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

25th Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 24th Revised Sheet No. 1

On April 5, 2018, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 19, 2018, 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, 49-38A-8.3, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-11.

At its regular meeting on April 20, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with James Valley Ethanol and the associated tariff sheet 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 with an effective date of May 1, 2018. It is therefore

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

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with James Valley Ethanol is approved, effective May 1, 2018.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of April 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. Cremer

Date:

04/27/18

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eiegen

KRISTIE EIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner