

**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 RUSTIC ACRES) HUTTERITE COLONY)	ORDER APPROVING CONTRACT WITH DEVIATIONS AND APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS
	NG20-004

On May 15, 2020, 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 Rustic Acres Hutterite Colony (Rustic Acres). Rustic Acres desires to have natural gas service extended to its location to serve its heating and grain drying requirements. NorthWestern states that based on the cost of the project, it requires security for the capital investment cost and a monthly surcharge in order to protect its legacy customers. The contract includes recovery of the pipeline project costs over a 15-year period. Per the customer's request, the project costs and tariff delivery charges will be recovered through a fixed monthly charge based on projected annual volumes, with an annual review conducted to determine if volumes exceed the projected amount. Any overages will be billed at the tariff rate 87B. NorthWestern requests approval with an effective date for the tariff revisions of July 1, 2020.

The revised tariff sheet is as follows:

South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

Section No. 4

15th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 14th Revised Sheet No. 2

On May 21, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 5, 2020, 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 June 23, 2020, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval. Finding that NorthWestern's request for approval of a contract with deviations with Rustic Acres 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 July 1, 2020. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's request seeking approval of a contract with deviations with Rustic Acres is hereby granted with an effective date of July 1, 2020. It is further

ORDERED, that the revisions of the above-referenced tariff sheet to reflect the contract with deviations with Rustic Acres is approved, effective July 1, 2020.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24 day of June 2020.

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>Adam deHueck</u>
Date: <u>6/24/20</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner