

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR )  
DECLARATORY RULING OF THE SOUTH )  
DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION )  
REGARDING 49 CFR 192.3 )**

**ORDER GRANTING  
INTERVENTION**

**PS11-001**

On November 18, 2011, the Commission Pipeline Safety Manager and Staff filed a petition for a declaratory ruling from the Commission. Specifically, PUC Staff questions whether a NorthWestern Energy natural gas line should be classified as a transmission line or a distribution line.

On November 24, 2011, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 9, 2011, to interested individuals and entities. On November 23, 2011 NorthWestern submitted a Petition to Intervene stating that it will be directly affected by the Commission's decision.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34B and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of December 6, 2011, the Commission considered the Petition to Intervene. Finding that the Petition to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Petition to Intervene. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the NorthWestern's Petition to Intervene is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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.
By: <u><i>Joy Dany</i></u>
Date: <u>12-14-11</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

*Chris Nelson*  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

*Kristie Fiegen*  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner