

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF  
THE COMMISSION PIPELINE SAFETY  
PROGRAM MANAGER FOR  
DECLARATORY RULING REGARDING  
WHETHER A PIPELINE OPERATOR'S  
DOCUMENTED MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE  
OPERATING PRESSURE CAN EXCEED  
THE PRESSURE LIMITS IN SDCL 49-41B-  
2.1 WITHOUT A SITING PERMIT

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PS09-002

**PETITION TO INTERVENE**

**COMES NOW** NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy and hereby petitions the Public Utilities Commission to grant NorthWestern Energy party status for intervention in this proceeding. In support of its Petition, NorthWestern Energy states as follows:

1. At the request of Public Utilities Commission Staff, the Commission has opened the above-captioned docket to issue a declaratory ruling regarding whether a pipeline operator Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) may exceed the pressure limits in SDCL 49-41B-2.1 without a siting permit.

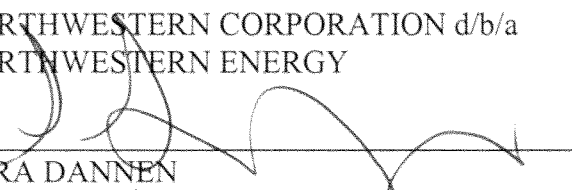
2. As an investor-owned, rate-regulated public utility serving natural gas customers in South Dakota and functioning as a pipeline operator as part of its natural gas utility business, NorthWestern Energy as an affected party is subject to Commission oversight activities related to and Commission interpretation of applicable statutes regarding its Pipeline Safety Program. NorthWestern Energy requests intervention in order to participate fully in this matter.

3. The interests of NorthWestern Energy are unique and cannot be fully and adequately represented by the existing parties. NorthWestern Energy and its stakeholders and ratepayers may be directly affected by the issues raised in this proceeding and its outcome.

**WHEREFORE**, NorthWestern Energy respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Petition granting it party status in this proceeding.

Dated at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009.

NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION d/b/a  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY



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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Sara Dannen of NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy hereby certifies that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009, she transmitted electronically a true and correct copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known e-mail addresses, to-wit:

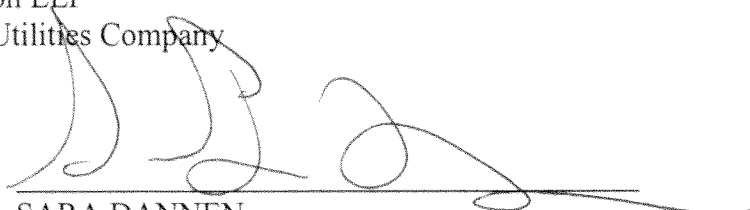
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