

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF)
COMMISSION PIPELINE SAFETY STAFF)
AGAINST NORTHWESTERN ENERGY)
REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL)
PIPELINE SAFETY ACT)**

**ORDER APPROVING
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

PS08-003

On June 30, 2008, Commission Pipeline Safety Staff filed a Complaint against NorthWestern Energy (NWE) regarding violations of the Federal Pipeline Safety Act.

On August 11, 2008, the Commission received a Response to Complaint from NWE. On January 20, 2009, the Commission received a Settlement Agreement signed by the parties.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34B

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 27, 2009, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission unanimously voted to approve the Settlement Agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED that the Settlement Agreement is hereby approved and the docket closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of February, 2009.

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.
By: <u><i>Delaine Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>2/5/09</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner