

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR)	
ELECTRICAL SERVICE BY DAKOTA ACCESS,)	
LLC & TO HAVE NORTHWESTERN ENERGY)	DOCKET NO. EL15-023
ASSIGNED AS ITS ELECTRIC SERVICE)	
PROVIDER IN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF)	
NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)	

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

NorthWestern Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy ("*NorthWestern*") hereby petitions the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("*Commission*") for intervention in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to SDCL § 1-26-17.1, and ARSD § 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03. In support hereof, NorthWestern states as follows:

1. On June 16, 2015, Dakota Access, LLC ("*Dakota Access*") filed a Petition for Electrical Service (the "*Petition*") in which it requested that the Commission assign NorthWestern as the supplier of electrical service for its proposed pipeline pump station to be located on Masat Subdivision Lot 1 in Spink County, South Dakota (the "*Facility*").

2. On June 18, 2015, the Commission noticed filing of the Petition on its Weekly Filings and established an intervention deadline of July 6, 2015. As of July 6, 2015, NorthWestern and Dakota Access had not reached final agreement regarding provision of electric service to the Facility. In late October 2015, NorthWestern and Dakota Access agreed to the terms of and executed an Electric Distribution Service Agreement (the "*Agreement*"). At the time NorthWestern and Dakota Access finalized the Agreement, an Application for an Energy Facility Permit (Docket HP14-002) (the "*Application*") was pending before the Commission. On November 30, 2015, the

Commission voted to grant the Application; the Commission has not yet issued an Order.

3. NorthWestern's pecuniary interests will be directly and immediately affected by the Commission's decision on the Petition. NorthWestern desires to intervene in this matter to provide information regarding its ability to provide electric service to the Facility. Dakota Access has requested that NorthWestern intervene in this docket.

4. NorthWestern represents to the Commission that Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. does not object to NorthWestern's intervention in this matter.

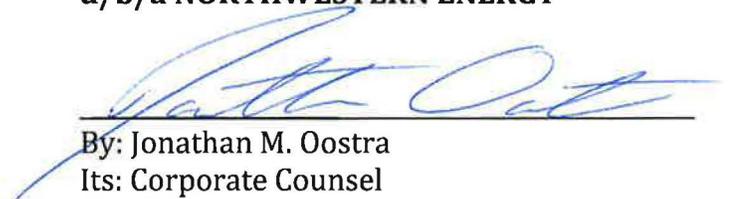
5. Although NorthWestern's Petition to Intervene is late-filed, the parties will not be prejudiced as the discovery stage has just commenced.

6. Based on the foregoing, NorthWestern is an interested party in this matter and entitled to intervening party status.

WHEREFORE, NorthWestern requests that the Commission grant this Petition to Intervene and allow NorthWestern to be granted party status in this proceeding.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2015.

**NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION,
d/b/a NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**



By: Jonathan M. Oostra

Its: Corporate Counsel

By: Timothy P. Olson

Its: Sr. Corporate Counsel & Corporate Secretary

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