

EXHIBIT A**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT**

COMES NOW, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern" or the "Company"), and pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:41, requests confidential treatment as follows:

- 1) The documents for which confidential treatment is requested are the Notice of distribution rate and initial construction costs, and the Workpapers containing the final rate calculations and construction costs;
- 2) The Company requests that such confidential treatment be afforded the Contract and Workpapers indefinitely, or, at a minimum, until the conclusion of the ten-year term of such Contract;
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

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- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Contract and Workpapers provide proprietary information concerning both the Company and the Customer, including the pricing of natural gas service, the costs of construction for the facilities to serve the Customer, etc. Sharing this information to third parties may provide competitive advantages to the competitors for both NorthWestern and the Customer.
- 5) As a factual basis in support of this request, please see the response to item 4) above.