



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 Natural Gas Transportation Service Agreement between NorthWestern and South Dakota State University (the "Customer"), dated May 15, 2015 (the "Agreement"), and exhibit B;
- 2) The Company requests that such confidential treatment be afforded the Agreement and Exhibits B indefinitely, or, at a minimum, until the conclusion of the ten-year term of the Agreement;
- 3) The name, address and phone number of the persons to be contacted regarding the confidentiality request are:

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Specialist Regulatory
NorthWestern Energy
600 Market St. West
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(605) 353-8315

Pamela Bonrud
Director Government and Regulatory Affairs
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- 4) The grounds for confidentiality are that the Agreement and exhibits provide proprietary information concerning both the Company and the Customer, including the pricing of natural gas service. 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.