

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

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s	)	Docket No. EL25-XXX
Notice of Intent to Apply for Permit for an	)	
Energy Conversion Facility at Aberdeen, South Dakota	)	

NorthWestern Energy’s Notice of Intent

Pursuant to South Dakota Codified Laws (“SDCL”) § 49-41B-5 and Administrative Rules of South Dakota (“ARSD”) 20:10:22:02, NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern”) respectfully notifies the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) of its intent to seek a construction permit for an energy conversion facility near Aberdeen, South Dakota.

INTRODUCTION

In May of 2025, in response to an imminent and growing need to bring new electric generating resources online to meet future capacity needs, the Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”) proposed an Expedited Resource Adequacy Study (“ERAS”) program. The ERAS program is designed to be a one-time process separate from SPP’s standard generator interconnection queue and is meant to fast-track projects that can be completed within five years of executing a generator interconnection agreement. On August 1, 2025, SPP announced a short window (from Sept. 2 to Oct. 2, 2025) for submission of applications for the ERAS program.

NorthWestern submitted a natural gas energy conversion facility to be part of SPP’s ERAS program on October 2, 2025, which (if accepted by SPP) means NorthWestern only has five years from executing a generation agreement to complete this project. NorthWestern is

requesting expedited review of this Notice and expects to request expedited processing of the construction permit given this short time frame to build this facility.

COMPANY CONTACT

Communications from Commission staff, parties, and interested persons regarding this matter may be directed to:

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CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

NorthWestern anticipates, subject to approval by SPP, that the construction information required by ARSD 20:10:22:02 will be:

- (1) Description of the size and type of facility: NorthWestern anticipates constructing, owning, and operating a natural gas energy conversion facility just north of its existing Siebrecht substation. The facility will contain three Solar Titan 350 simple-cycle combustion turbines, each with a nameplate capacity of 43.7 megawatts (“MW”), for a total nameplate capacity of approximately 131.2 MW. The construction will include three stacks, standard equipment enclosures, balance-of-plant equipment, and associated facilities.

The associated facilities are expected to include natural gas piping to connect to NorthWestern's existing Northern Border pipeline (less than 300 feet of new piping).

Water use is expected to be less than 40 gallons per minute under normal operation. We anticipate using the local water supply in our operations.

(2) Estimate of the Total Cost of Construction: The project is estimated to cost \$276 million in total.

(3) Identification of the Location and Description of the Affected Area: The facility is expected to be built in Section 25, Township 123 North, Range 64 West of the 5th P.M., in Brown County, South Dakota. In other words, the facility will be on the Northeast corner of 135th Street and South 5th Street, south of the City of Aberdeen. This is land owned by NorthWestern, is zoned a heavy industrial district, and is currently a dirt parking lot intermittently used for construction equipment.

(4) Social and Economic Impact: Construction of the facility will generate significant economic impact for Aberdeen, the surrounding community, and South Dakota. NorthWestern estimates that \$100 million of the total construction costs will be for resident workers and local materials. This does not include the secondary benefits to the local community, such as construction workers living and spending in the community for the (at least) two-year projected construction period. After construction, NorthWestern anticipates that 10-15 permanent employees will be necessary to operate this new facility and that NorthWestern will pay over \$3 million in property taxes over the first five years after the new facility is built, bringing additional and long-term benefits to the area.

Regarding any social or environmental impact, studies will be conducted as part of the permitting and construction process. Given that this facility will be just North of

NorthWestern’s existing gas plant, additional impacts to the local area are expected to be minimal. Regardless, NorthWestern is committed to any necessary mitigation measures to reduce the impact of this new facility.

(5) Anticipated Permit Authorization Date, Construction and Operation Schedules:

Application for Construction Permit	On or before April 1, 2026
Begin Pre-Construction	Q2 2027
Generation Testing	Q4 2029
Commercial Operation	Q2 2030

(6) All relevant county, school district, tribal, and municipal contacts: Below is all available contact information for the county commissions, tribal governments, school districts, and city and municipal mayors within ten miles of the proposed new facility.

Brown County Commission 25 Market Street Aberdeen, SD 57401	Duane Sutton, Chair: 605-216-0804 Mike Gage, Vice-Chair: 605-228-2956 Drew Dennert: 605-252-1008 Kyler Dinger: 605-228-6536 Mike Wiese: 605-228-1237
City of Aberdeen 123 South Lincoln Street Aberdeen, SD 57401	Travis Schaunaman, Mayor 605-626-7025
Town of Warner Warner Municipal Building PO Box 301 Warner, SD 57479	David Fair, Chair of City Council 605-384-3741
Aberdeen Public School District 1224 South 3rd Street Aberdeen, SD 57401	Aaron Schultz, President 605-725-7100
Warner School District 06-5 110 1 st Ave. SW PO Box 20 Warner, SD 57479	Leah Haaland, President 605-225-6194

(7) Requests for the Commission: Given the short time frame for building new generation under the SPP ERAS program as well as the suitability of the proposed site, NorthWestern requests expedited review of this Notice of Intent. Typically, the Commission requires six months' notice before filing the application for a construction permit. NorthWestern is requesting to shorten this time frame to three months, if at all possible, or at least to whatever time frame the Commission believes is feasible and appropriate. NorthWestern also plans on requesting an expedited review of the construction permit application when it is filed.

(8) Description of all known federal, state, and local permits that may be required:

Government Level	Specific Agency	Requirement	Timing
Federal	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404	Prior to Construction
Federal	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Review, Section 10	Prior to Construction
Federal	U.S Environmental Protection Agency	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan	Prior to Operation
Federal	U.S Environmental Protection Agency	Title IV Acid Rain Permit	Prior to Operation
State	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission	Permit for Energy Conversion Facility and Associated Transmission Facilities	Prior to Construction
State	South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR)	Temporary Surface Water Discharge Permit	Prior to Construction
State	SDDENR	Temporary Water Use Permit for Construction Activities, Drilling, or Testing Purposes	Prior to Construction
State	SDDENR	Permit to Construct for a Non-PSD Minor Source of Air Emissions	Prior to Construction
State	SDDENR	Water Right Permit for Non-irrigation Use	Prior to Construction

State	SDDENR	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit	Prior to Construction
State	SDDENR	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Industrial Stormwater Discharge Permit	Prior to Operation
State	SDDENR	No Exposure Certification (for exclusion from stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities)	Prior to Construction
State	SDDENR	Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification	Prior to Construction
State/Local	SDDENR	Septic Tank Installation Plan Review	Prior to Construction
State	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	State-listed Endangered Species Review	Prior to Construction
State	State Historic Preservation Office	Cultural and Historic Resources Review	Prior to Construction
Local	Brown County	Building Permit	Prior to Construction
Local	Brown County	Conditional Use Permit	Prior to Construction
Local	Brown County	Floodplain Development	Prior to Construction

CONCLUSION

With this filing, NorthWestern provides notice to the Commission of its intent to build a new electric generation facility near Aberdeen, South Dakota. This new generation facility will provide much needed capacity for the future and will be a substantial benefit to the local community and the State of South Dakota.

Respectfully submitted this 31st day of October, 2025.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

By: /s/
Pamela A. Bonrud
Director of Government and Regulatory
Affairs, South Dakota, for NorthWestern
Energy