

Docket Number: EL25-013
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy
(NorthWestern or Company)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: May 1, 2025
Responses Due: May 15, 2025

Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Generation

1-14. Provide the forecasted 2026 SMR Study Costs. Explain.

NWE RESPONSE:

NorthWestern received approval from the South Dakota PUC to establish an accounting order to study the feasibility of nuclear power. Our accounting order request identified that NorthWestern estimated it would incur approximately \$800,000 in costs to conduct its SMR analysis. To date, there is \$211,927 remaining of the \$800,000 cap for the accounting order. NorthWestern's intention is to only expend what is absolutely necessary for external consultants or general contracting needs, to assist with the study. Therefore, NorthWestern's current forecasts project costs to remain within the \$800,00 accounting order cap. If NorthWestern anticipates it may exceed that cap, we commit to coming back to the SD PUC to discuss those expenditures. Internal costs for travel and labor are not being charged to the accounting order.