

**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**

- 1-15. When does NorthWestern expect to have all SMR studies complete? What is the projected total cost of the studies?

**NWE RESPONSE:**

NorthWestern is currently anticipating the study to be completed, or nearing completion, by the end of 2026. As stated in response to DR1-14, the approved accounting order is capped at \$800,000. NorthWestern is diligently working to only use the money needed to complete the study within that accounting order cap. Should NorthWestern become aware that study costs will surpass the \$800,000 cap, NorthWestern will initiate discussions with the SD PUC regarding those expected costs and what is driving the need to exceed the \$800,000 cap.