

**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**

1-16. Provide the rationale for the amortization period proposed for the Nuclear Study Costs.

**NWE Response:**

In EL23-016, NorthWestern and Staff agreed to a five-year average for costs for Claims and Injury expense and Storm Damage. Additionally, amortization lives of three to seven years were proposed and discussed by both parties in the settlement discussions regarding Bad Debt expense, Rate Case Expenses and Vegetation Management. Based on those discussions, a five-year amortization of these costs is a reasonable recovery period.