

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

- 1-17. Refer to the Petition, page 6. NorthWestern states: “In Docket EL23-002, the Commission issued an order on March 1, 2023, approving NorthWestern’s request for deferred accounting treatment and the creation of a regulatory asset for the purpose of accumulating study costs related to our SMR investigation. A cap of \$800,000 for the regulatory asset was agreed to by all parties.” Explain where the cap of \$800,000 was agreed to. It appears the Commission’s order in Docket EL23-002 allowed for the use of deferred accounting for nuclear study costs and the creation of a regulatory asset for costs paid beginning March 1, 2023, including 2024 study costs, not a specific dollar amount.

NWE Response:

In docket EL23-002, on page 2 of confidential exhibit B, \$800,000 of costs were shown with a total not to exceed that amount. Based on that exhibit, it has been NorthWestern’s understanding that we were allowed to defer up to \$800,000 for nuclear study costs.