

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

- 1-8. Provide an update on the status of NorthWestern's application for Department of Energy funding.

NWE RESPONSE:

NorthWestern received SDPUC approval to defer Nuclear Study costs in Docket EL23-002. At that time there was an option to receive financial support in the form of a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). NorthWestern engaged a consultant familiar with the DOE grant process to help us understand how to navigate the requirements to submit a grant request so we could compete for support under the DOE grant program. There were eligibility stipulations associated with the grant program that required the study be completed by the end of 2023 and the recipient of the grant was within 1 year of making a decision to develop a nuclear plant or not. NorthWestern was not in a position to complete the study or make a decision in that short of a time frame, therefore we were not eligible for the opportunity.

Should a funding opportunity become available again, and NorthWestern fits the eligibility requirements, a decision will be made if applying at that time is the right thing to do.