

Docket Number: EL25-013
Subject Matter: Second 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: June 2, 2025
Responses Due: June 16, 2025

Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Generation

2-5. What additional study work will need to be done after 2025?

NWE Response:

The activities NorthWestern is continuing to study to get to confidence in a go/no-go decision on nuclear power in South Dakota includes but is not limited to the following:

- Site Study and Selection – Finding a suitable piece of land where access can be granted (through lease or purchase) where initial environmental study work can be completed to identify any exclusionary factor that would not pass Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or other regulatory reviews.
- Partnership Development – Working towards Letters of Intent (LOI) on partnerships should the decision be to move forward with the project. Those partnerships would include:
 - Technology – continuing to evaluate and determine which technology would fit best with NorthWestern and the State of South Dakota.
 - Owner – entities that may be interested in part ownership of the project.
 - Operator – Finding a suitable partner with a current nuclear power plant operating license for the operation of the plant. This would be required for the submittal and obtaining of an NRC operations permit.
 - Developer – Construction of the plant itself. This could be in the form of a Build Ownership Transfer, often referred to as a BOT, wherein an entity would take on the project risks throughout construction or the developer should the financing come from the utility or partnerships with the utility.
- Community Engagement – Continuing to meet with leaders and people from all levels of government and the communities to gauge interest in and education of nuclear power and development.