

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC)
SERVICE CORPORATION DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S REQUEST)
TO IMPLEMENT A PHASE-IN RATE)
PLAN RIDER)**

**ORDER ASSESSING
FILING FEE; ORDER
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

EL25-013

On April 1, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) for Approval of Its Phase-In Rate Plan Rider (PIRP Rider). NorthWestern requests recovery of capital investment costs associated with an electric generation plant rebuild located in Aberdeen, South Dakota and costs related to its evaluation of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMR) technology to meet future generation and capacity needs. The proposed rates and monthly impact will vary by customer class. Northwestern states a typical residential electric customer using an average of 750 kWh per month will be billed \$2.27 per month under the proposed PIRP Rider. NorthWestern requests Commission approval of its proposed PIRP Rider with an effective date of July 1, 2025.

On April 3, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 22, 2025, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments have been filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-73 through 49-34A-78.

SDCL 49-34A-77 requires an electric utility filing a petition for a phase-in rate plan rider to pay a filing fee to be determined by the Commission in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 22, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee as requested by Commission staff up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-77 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$250,000. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April 2025.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 24 April 2025

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairperson

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner