



May 28, 2026

Ms. Leah Mohr, Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

*via E-filing*

Re: Joint Request for Approval of Consent and Agreement  
Docket No. EL26-\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ms. Mohr:

Pursuant to SDCL § 49-34A-55, NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (“*NorthWestern*”) and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“*Central*”) respectfully request approval of a Consent and Agreement (“*Consent*”).

Central and NorthWestern reviewed locations that each is serving in the other’s service territory to confirm which locations were being served as of March 21, 1975, and therefore qualify for continued service under the grandfather provision in SDCL § 49-34A-42. As part of this process, Central and NorthWestern identified certain locations that were *not* being served as of March 21, 1975. After numerous discussions, Central and NorthWestern have each agreed to allow the other to continue to serve these locations. Central and NorthWestern have entered into the Consent to memorialize their agreement.

SDCL § 49-34A-55 allows electric utilities to reach agreement regarding service rights, provided any such agreement is filed with and approved by the Commission, with approval to be based on the public interest. Factors to be considered by the Commission include “the elimination or avoidance of unnecessary duplication of facilities, providing adequate electric service to all areas and customers affected, and the promotion of the efficient and economical use and development of the electric systems of the contracting electric utilities.” In this case, Central and NorthWestern have agreed to allow existing electric service to continue as is, thus avoiding the unnecessary build-out of new infrastructure that would lead to increased rates for customers and duplication of facilities. The customers at the identified locations will continue to receive electric service from their current providers, so there will be no change to their electric service or their rates as a result of this Consent. Therefore, the Consent is in the public interest. Central and NorthWestern will each provide notice of this filing to the customers it is currently serving.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

**NorthWestern Energy Public Service  
Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy**

**Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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