

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF NORTHWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC)
SERVICE CORPORATION, DBA)
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY)
CONVERSION FACILITY PERMIT TO)
CONSTRUCT THE HUB CITY ENERGY)
PARK NATURAL GAS GENERATION)
FACILITY, INCLUDING A NATURAL GAS)
TRANSMISSION PIPELINE, NEAR)
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA)

**ORDER AUTHORIZING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
ENTER INTO CONSULTING
CONTRACTS; ORDER
REAPPOINTING LOCAL
REVIEW COMMITTEE**

EL26-031

On October 2, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation, dba NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern" or "Applicant") for an energy conversion facility permit to construct the Hub City Energy Park (Project) natural gas generation facility, including a natural gas transmission pipeline, near Aberdeen, South Dakota. The Project, formerly known as the Aberdeen III Generating Station, is a nominal 131 MW (gross) natural gas combustion turbine (CT) facility. The Project consists of three CTs in simple cycle configuration, including a back-end multipollutant catalyst system, and associated balance-of-plant systems and equipment. The Project also includes a new substation and overhead electric tie-in line to facilitate electrical grid interconnection to the existing Siebrecht substation on the Aberdeen Generating Station site, and a natural gas lateral transmission line to connect to the nearby Northern Border Pipeline Company mainline. Applicant expects construction activities to begin in late 2027 or early 2028, with the Project coming online in the first half of 2030. Applicant will supplement the filing with a public version of the total construction cost information at a later date, at which point the maximum filing fee will be calculated pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-6, as amended effective July 1, 2026, within 30 days of receipt of an application for an energy conversion facility, the Commission must designate a local review committee. Within 10 days of designation, the Commission must provide notice to each member of the local review committee, after which the member may elect to participate by providing written notice to the commission. Prior to the passage of SB 25 in 2026, the Commission designated a local review committee for this Project in Docket No. EL25-038, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-6 as it read at the time. However, the current statute does not contain an exception for previously designated committees, therefore, the Commission must re-designate the local review committee in compliance with the timeframe established in the current statute.

On October 8, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of December 1, 2026, 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 have been filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-6.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 20, 2026, the Commission considered Staff's request to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. The Commission voted unanimously to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts and to reappoint the local review committee designated in Docket No. EL25-038¹. Pursuant to the Commissions prior Order, the affected area is designated as a five-mile radius from the proposed energy conversion facility and the local review committee which shall be compromised of the following individuals, ex officio:

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| (1) Affected South Dakota Counties
(Chair of County Commissioners) | Brown |
| (2) Affected SD Municipalities (Mayor) | Aberdeen |
| (3) Affected SD School Districts
(President of Board of Education) | Aberdeen Public School District 06-1
Warner School District 06-5 |
| (4) A representative of NorthWestern | |

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

ORDERED, that for the purpose of this energy conversion facility, the affected area shall be a five-mile radius from the proposed energy conversion facility. It is further

ORDERED, that the local review committee shall be compromised of the above referenced individuals, serving ex officio, and that any person on the committee who ceases to hold such office or appointment shall be replaced on the committee by his or her successor, who shall promptly notify the Commission of such succession.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of October 2026.

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:	<u>[Signature]</u>
Date:	<u>21 Oct 2026</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature: Chris Nelson]
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature: Kristie Fiegen]
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature: Gary Hanson]
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

¹ See Commission's Order dated November 19, 2025, in Docket No. EL25-038.