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October 23, 2026

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Aaron Schultz
Aberdeen Public School District 06-1
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Travis Schaunaman
Mayor of Aberdeen
123 South Lincoln Street
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Leah Haaland
Warner School District 06-5
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Warner, SD 57479

Joshua Follman
NorthWestern Energy
11 E. Park Street
Butte, MT 59701-1711

RE: EL26-031 - In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation, dba NorthWestern Energy, for an 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

This Letter is intended to provide notice of the South Dakota Public Utility Commission's (Commission) designation of affected area and local review committee for the above-listed application pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-6. The five individuals listed above are known by the Commission to be the proper representatives of the respective county commission, municipality of Aberdeen, school districts, and applicant utility. If you are not the proper representative, please communicate that to the Commission or Commission staff as soon as possible.

As you may recall, the individuals listed above were designated by the Commission to serve on the Local Review Committee for NorthWestern Energy's (NorthWestern) proposed energy conversion facility¹ at Aberdeen, South Dakota.² The 2026 legislative session made changes to the local review committee process. Notably, SDCL 49-41B-6 requires the Commission to designate the affected area and a local review committee within thirty days of the filing of an application. NorthWestern filed its Application for the Hub City Energy Park on October 2, 2026. In accordance with the newly amended statute, on October 21, 2026, the Commission reappointed the same Local Review Committee that was designated in docket EL25-038. I have enclosed the Commission Order for your reference.

Another important change in statute is that members of the Local Review Committee must opt-in to the committee process or else the committee will cease to exist. Here is the statute in full:

¹ The proposed project described in EL25-038 has been recently named the "Hub City Energy Park" by NorthWestern. Both EL25-038 and EL26-031 refer to the same project.

² See EL25-038 - Order Designating Affected Area and Designating Local Review Committee, November 19, 2025.

49-41B-6. Designation of affected area--Local review committee--Committee composition--Participation notice--Waiver.

Within thirty days after the filing of an application for a permit for the construction of an energy conversion facility or AC/DC conversion facility, the commission shall designate the affected area and a local review committee composed of:

- (1) The chair of the tribal council of each affected reservation;
- (2) The president of the board of each affected school district;
- (3) The chair of the board of county commissioners of each affected county;
- (4) The mayor of each affected municipality; and
- (5) A representative of the applicant utility designated by the utility.

Within ten days of the commission's designation pursuant to this chapter, the commission shall provide notice of the designation to each member of the committee.

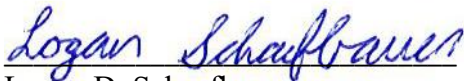
If a member elects to participate in the committee process, the member must provide written notice of the election to the commission within sixty days after the filing of the application. Unless at least three members elect to participate, the requirements of §§ 49-41B-7, 49-41B-8, 49-41B-10, and 49-41B-20 are waived, and the committee ceases to exist.

(emphasis added). Therefore, three members of the Local Review Committee must provide written notice to the Commission by **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**, of their election to participate in the committee process, or else the Committee will cease to exist. Written notice maybe be provided by email to PUC@state.sd.us.

This letter is being sent to the Local Review Committee members by email and a physical copy will be sent via USPS. This letter will also be filed in docket EL26-031.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, or the Local Review Committee.

Sincerely,



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Enc.

Cc/ – Service List EL25-038; Service List EL26-031; Ronald A. Wager, Aberdeen City Attorney assisting the Local Review Committee.