

Docket Number: GE20-002
Subject Matter: Second Data Request
Request to: NorthWestern Energy (NWE or Company)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: June 2, 2020
Responses Due: June 16, 2020

- 2-4. Has the Company received, or does the Company plan to receive, any federal assistance or Paycheck Protection Program loans to help during this COVID-19 economic crisis? Explain. NorthWestern Energy has neither received any federal assistance under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or other federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic or the ensuing economic crisis, nor do we plan to seek financial assistance from the federal government. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) did not contain any provisions for financial assistance specifically directed to utilities. The PPP was a Small Business Administration Program, for businesses employing 500 or fewer individuals. NorthWestern would not qualify under the PPP due to its number of employees. Other federal financial assistance in the form of loans under the CARES Act was available to businesses with between 500 and 10,000 employees. However these loans required certain certifications, including certification that the business would not pay dividends so long as the loan was outstanding, making that assistance undesirable.