

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT)	
APPLICATION OF NORTHWESTERN)	
ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
CORPORATION, BLACK HILLS)	AND STIPULATION TO EXTEND
CORPORATION AND NORTHWESTERN)	STATUTORY DEADLINE
ENERGY GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL)	
OF MERGER)	GE25-001

On October 27, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Application for Approval of Merger from Black Hills Corporation (Black Hills) and NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. (NorthWestern Group and collectively, the Merger Parties) and NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) (together with Merger Parties, the Joint Applicants). SDCL 49-34A-36 requires the Commission to issue a final decision within 180 days of the initial filing in this matter.

On October 30, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 14, 2025, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission’s PUC Weekly Filing electronic listserv. On December 3, 2025, the Commission granted South Dakota Laborers Local 620, the Great Plains Laborer’s District Council, and the Laborers International Union of North America’s Petition to Intervene. On January 15, 2026, the Commission issued an Order Granting Motion for a Procedural Schedule. On February 4, 2026, the Parties filed an Unopposed Joint Motion and Stipulation to Extend the Statutory Deadline and Waiver of Response Time (Stipulation). In the Stipulation, the Parties request to extend the statutory deadline for the Commission decision by ninety days and to waive the response time for the motion.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-36.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 12, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. Finding that the law allows for the waiver of any right by the party in possession of that right, and that in this matter all parties have requested a waiver of the right to a decision within 180 days and a waiver to the response time for the motion, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Stipulation and extend the deadline as requested. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Unopposed Joint Motion and Stipulation to Extend the Statutory Deadline and Waiver of Response Time is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the deadline is hereby extended to July 27, 2026.¹

¹ This date reflects the fact that the ninetieth day is a Sunday, and the Parties confirmed at the February 12, 2026, Commission meeting that they agree that the due date is, therefore, July 27, 2026. In addition, all parties verbally agreed at the February 12, 2026, Commission meeting that the deadline could be viewed as a deadline for the Commission’s final vote in this matter, rather than the deadline for a final written decision.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of February 2026.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

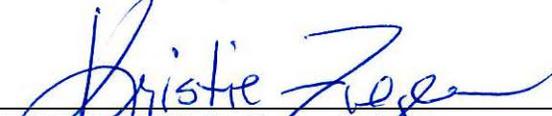
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: 

Date: 17 February 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


CHRIS NELSON, Chairman


KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner


GARY HANSON, Commissioner