

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
APPLICATION OF NORTHWESTERN)	FOR A PROCEDURAL
ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE)	SCHEDULE
CORPORATION, BLACK HILLS)	
CORPORATION AND NORTHWESTERN)	
ENERGY GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL)	GE25-001
OF MERGER)	

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). Pursuant to state law, the Commission must 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 2, 2026, Commission staff (Staff) and the Joint Applicants filed a Motion for Approval of Procedural Schedule.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. No party objected to the establishment of a procedural schedule. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion for Approval of a Procedural Schedule filed on January 2, 2026, and to adopt the Procedural Schedule as proposed in the Motion. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Approval of a Procedural Schedule is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule is established as follows:

Staff and Intervenor Testimony Due.....	February 18, 2026
All Parties' Rebuttal Testimony Due.....	March 11, 2026
Final Day for all parties to Send Discovery.....	March 18, 2026
File Exhibits and Witness List.....	March 25, 2026
Evidentiary Hearing.....	April 1-3, 2026

It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten calendar days after service of discovery unless a different period is agreed upon by the requesting Party and responding Party. It is further

ORDERED, that prefiled testimony is required as a prerequisite to the offering of testimony at the evidentiary hearing.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of January 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: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 15 January 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner