

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) THE JOINT APPLICATION OF) NORHTWESTERN ENERGY PUBLIC) SERVICE CORPORATION, BLACK HILLS) CORPORATION AND NORTHWESTERN) ENERGY GROUP, INC., FOR APPROVAL) OF MERGER)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE GE25-001
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On October 27, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Application by 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) for Approval of Merger.

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 (together, “Laborers”) Petition to Intervene. On January 15, 2026, the Commission issued an Order Granting a Motion for a Procedural Schedule. On February 17, 2026, the Commission issued an Order Granting Motion and Stipulation to Extend Statutory Deadline to July 27, 2026. On February 18, 2026, Commission staff (Staff), the Laborers, and the Joint Applicants (together, “Joint Movants”) filed an Unopposed Joint 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 February 23, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. Joint Movants requested the Commission grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Procedural Schedule. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Procedural Schedule filed on February 18, 2026. It is therefore

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

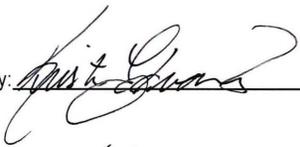
ORDERED, that the procedural schedule is established as follows:

Staff/Intervenor Testimony Due.....	May 15, 2026
All Parties’ Rebuttal Testimony Due.....	June 5, 2026
Final Day for all parties to Send Discovery.....	June 12, 2026
File Exhibits and Witness List.....	June 15, 2026
Evidentiary Hearing.....	June 22-24, 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.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th 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: <u></u>
Date: <u>24 February 2026</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner



GARY HANSON, Commissioner