

Docket Number: EL22-009 and NG22-004
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern or Company)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: April 13, 2022
Responses Due: April 29, 2022

- 1-1. Regarding the Aberdeen Development Corporation, the Company explains that Aberdeen Development Corporation didn't submit a request for their capital campaign in 2021 which will be made up for in NorthWestern's 2022 contribution. Explain why the 2022 total budget not only doubles from the \$5,000 budgeted for 2021 to \$10,000 to make up for 2021, but also includes an additional \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000 in 2022.
NWE Response: The Aberdeen Development Corporation began a new capital campaign in late 2020. For that campaign, NorthWestern Energy agreed to a pledge of \$15,000 per year (to be reviewed annually) for five years. We agreed to begin our contributions in 2021. To help with our budget, we paid \$5,000 of the 2021 installment in 2020. It was our intention to then pay the remaining \$10,000 in 2021. However, with COVID, NorthWestern didn't receive an invoice and no payments were made. Because of this, we are paying \$25,000 in 2022, which is made up of the \$10,000 from 2021 plus the 2022 installment.
- 1-2. Explain the increase in 2021 expense for Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce compared to the budget.
NWE Response: The 2021 budget for the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce was mistakenly low compared to previous years. The increased \$6,260 actual amount accurately reflects NorthWestern's annual dues to the Aberdeen Chamber and this dues amount is anticipated to be similar going forward.
- 1-3. Should the Redfield Area Chamber be included on EL22-009 Exhibit A with a 2022 Total Budget of \$340? Redfield Area Chamber has been included in the past for both electric and natural gas and is included in the 2022 Proposed Budget found on NG22-004 Attachment A.
NWE response: Yes, the Redfield Area Chamber should be included in the EL22-009 Exhibit A with a 2022 Total Budget of \$340. The reason they were not included is because NorthWestern has not received dues requests from them for the past couple years. We will reach out to them to make sure they get a request into us for 2022.
- 1-4. Refer to EL22-009 Attachment A. Provide additional information regarding the purpose of the \$4,500 budget for the National Field Archery Association.
NWE Response: The National Field Archery Association is a non-profit corporation and is the largest field archery organization in the world. The most well-known NFAA event is the annual 3 Star Tour. This tour has 3 stops including the First Dakota Classic in Yankton, SD that bring in world-class archers from around the world. Local support for archery events helps drive the economic impact from athletes and spectators bringing their talents and dollars to Yankton. This \$4,500 investment in the First Dakota Classic event provides local support needed to host this annual event. This investment ties directly with the major initiatives associated with Advantage South Dakota of business attraction and workforce recruitment. Yankton is uniquely positioned with the archery amenities to capitalize on the economic development and marketing opportunities for the region.

- 1-5. Refer to NG22-004 Attachment B. NorthWestern notes the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance was formerly LCEDA/MCEDA. When did the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance form? Explain why NorthWestern made contributions to the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance in addition to the Lincoln County Economic Development Association and the Minnehaha County Economic Development Association in 2021.

NWE Response: The Sioux Metro Growth Alliance officially formed in 2021. The date of this formation is why NorthWestern made contributions to Sioux Metro Growth Alliance and LCEDA/MCEDA. NorthWestern also became an elevated member in 2021 as our presence in the area has grown and so has our involvement with the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance. Going forward NorthWestern will only contribute to the Sioux Metro Growth Alliance.

- 1-6 Refer to NG22-004 Attachment B. Explain the increase in 2021 expense for Madison Area Chamber compared to the budget.

NWE Response: The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce moved to a tiered membership system which increased the dues level at which NorthWestern participates. This system enabled NorthWestern to pay for more of the sponsorships, events, and advertising in the annual dues instead of paying for a number of them individually.