

Docket Number: NG26-003
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: NorthWestern Energy (NWE or Company)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: April 10, 2026
Responses Due: April 24, 2026

1-1. Refer to Attachment B. What caused the increase from budget to actual for Brookings Chamber of Commerce and Huron Chamber and Visitors Bureau?

The Brookings Chamber of Commerce increase from budget was connected to a dues increase. The increase for the Huron Chamber and Visitors Bureau was attributed to increased dues and a local educational sponsorship.

1-2. Refer to Attachment B. What caused the decrease from budget to actual for Mitchell Area Chamber of Commerce and South Dakota Economic Development Professionals Association? For both these organizations, confirm the 2026 budget on Attachment A should be identical to the 2025 budget and not 2025 actual.

For the Mitchell Area Chamber of Commerce, NorthWestern Energy paid 2025 dues in late 2024 to track with the Chamber's 2024-2025 fiscal year. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, NorthWestern Energy requested to be billed in early 2026 instead of late 2025 so 2026 payment would track with our budget process better. This is why there was no payment recorded in 2025. This should result in our bill being paid in full early in each calendar year going forward. The \$600 actual expense for 2025 came from a sponsorship request we received during 2025 that was separate from dues.

Regarding the South Dakota Economic Development Professionals Association, it had been communicated that a dues increase was likely to be coming soon, so we budgeted for that in 2025. However, it appears the budget increase will likely occur in 2026, so we budgeted for that increase in the proposed 2026 budget.

We anticipate the proposed 2026 budget will reflect the 2025 budget and not 2025 actual based on feedback from these organizations. However, it is important to note that with all organizations there is some fluidity in requests from year to year as different opportunities arise during the year.