

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST FOR)
APPROVAL OF A CONSENT AND AGREEMENT)
BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE)
CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY)
AND CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)
REGARDING ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHT)
)

ORDER APPROVING CONSENT
AND AGREEMENT

EL26-018

On May 28, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from NorthWestern Public Service Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Central) for a Consent and Agreement (Agreement) for Commission approval. The Agreement is filed pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-55 and identifies certain electric service locations that NorthWestern and Central have agreed to allow the other electric utility to continue to serve within their designated electric service territory. The locations in the Agreement were not served prior to March 21, 1975, and are not grandfathered in under SDCL 49-34A-42. Given this, the utilities entered into the Agreement to memorialize the electric serve rights for the locations.

On June 4, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 19, 2026, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On July 2, 2026, NorthWestern responded to staff's first data request.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 through 49-34A-44 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 14, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approving the requested consent and agreement. Finding that the consent and agreement will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer affected, promote the efficient and economical use and development of the utilities' electric systems, and that the exception to the parties' assigned service territories is in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the requested consent and agreement. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the requested consent and agreement is hereby approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of July 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 July 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner