

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT
APPLICATION OF NORTHWESTERN
ENERGY PUBLIC SERVICE
CORPORATION, BLACK HILLS
CORPORATION AND
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY GROUP,
INC., FOR APPROVAL OF MERGER**

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**MOTION BY STAFF AND JOINT
APPLICANTS FOR APPROVAL OF
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

GE25-001

Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Staff), 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) hereby files a Motion for Approval of Procedural Schedule.

Upon settling on a proposed procedural schedule, Staff and the Joint Applicants took into account the amount of time necessary to conduct discovery, participate in a settlement conference, and prepare testimony.

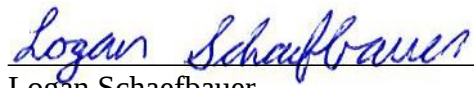
Staff and the Joint Applicants request the Commission establish a ten-calendar day deadline for responses to discovery requests unless a different period is agreed upon by the requesting Party and responding Party.

Contingent on the ten-day deadline for discovery responses, Staff and the Joint Applicants propose the following procedural schedule be adopted in this docket:

February 18, 2026	Staff and Intervenor testimony due
March 11, 2026	All Parties’ Rebuttal testimony due
March 18, 2026	Final day for all parties to send discovery
March 25, 2026	File exhibits and witness list
April 1 - April 3, 2026	Evidentiary Hearing

WHEREFORE, the Parties respectfully request the Commission issue an order adopting the Motion by Staff and Joint Applicants for Approval of Procedural Schedule as detailed in this Proposal, establishing a ten-calendar day deadline for responses to discovery requests, and requiring submission of prefiled testimony.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2025.

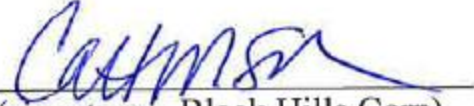


Logan Schaeffbauer

Staff Attorney

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

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(signature – Black Hills Corp)

/S/Sarah Norcott
(Signature – NorthWestern Energy)