

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)	Application No. NG-128
NorthWestern Energy Public Service)	
Corporation, Sioux Falls, South Dakota;)	
Black Hills Corporation, Rapid City, South)	ORDER SETTING
Dakota, and NorthWestern Energy)	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
Group, Inc., Sioux Falls, South Dakota,)	AND NOTICE OF HEARING
seeking approval of a merger.)	
)	
)	Entered: December 9, 2025

BY THE HEARING OFFICER:

On October 27, 2025, NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Black Hills Corporation of Rapid City, South Dakota, and NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. of Sioux Falls, South Dakota ("Applicants") filed a joint application with the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission") seeking approval of a merger. Petitions for Formal Intervention were filed by the Nebraska Public Advocate on October 27, 2025, and the Nebraska LIUNA Local 1140 ("Local 1140") on November 25, 2025. These petitions were approved by the Commission on October 30, 2025, and December 1, 2025, respectively.

Procedural Schedule

A planning conference was held on December 3, 2025. Douglas Law and Andy Pollock were present on behalf of the Applicants. Chris Dibbern, the Public Advocate, was present. Ryan Kunhart was present on behalf of Local 1140. Pursuant to the planning conference, a procedural schedule was discussed and is set forth below.

A. Service

Parties may meet filing deadlines outlined herein by sending an electronic copy of the filing via electronic mail to psc.naturalgas@nebraska.gov, so long as all parties are served via electronic mail contemporaneously.

B. Discovery

All discovery responses are due within ten (10) days of service, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties. Any discovery request served after 3:00 p.m. shall be considered filed the following day for purposes of calculating response time. Parties should reference the Nebraska Court Rules of Discovery in Civil Cases for

general guidance as to the conduct of discovery. Should this order conflict with any provision of said Rules, this order controls. Parties should make efforts to resolve any discovery disputes.

All parties shall provide a courtesy copy of any discovery requests and responses to the Commission. Such discovery requests and responses shall not be part of the official record unless they are offered and accepted as exhibits during the hearing on the application. Courtesy copies should be sent to psc.naturalgas@nebraska.gov.

C. Deadlines

Deadlines for various events and filings were established through communication with the parties and are set forth below. All hearing times and other times listed are in Central Time. All filings are due by 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Event	Date
Joint Application Filed	October 27, 2025
Commission Notice of Application	October 30, 2025
Protective Order Issued	October 30, 2025
Planning Conference Notice	November 20, 2025
Discovery by PA/Intervenors	November 4, 2025 – January 23, 2026
Intervention Deadline	December 1, 2025
Planning Conference	December 3, 2025
Testimony of PA/Intervenors Filed	February 3, 2026
Discovery by Joint Applicants	February 3, 2026 – March 2, 2026
Rebuttal Testimony of Joint Applicants	March 2, 2026
Filing of Hearing Exhibits/List of Issues/Settlements	March 31, 2026
Planning Conference for Hearing (if needed)	April 6, 2026
Hearing	April 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and April 8, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Post-Hearing Briefs (if needed)	April 15, 2026
Commission Order Issued on or around	June 2, 2026

D. Settlement

All parties are encouraged to cooperate and engage in negotiations; however, the conduct of negotiations does not relieve the parties of their obligation to meet filing deadlines.

E. Planning Conference for Hearing

Motions submitted by the parties will be considered by the Hearing Officer at the planning conference, held on **April 6, 2026**. This conference will be held via webconference. Access instructions and additional details will be sent to the parties the week prior to the conference.

If no motions are submitted, and there are no other outstanding issues which must be considered prior to hearing, the Commission will notify the parties that the planning conference will be cancelled.

F. Hearing

A hearing will be scheduled in the above-captioned docket in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT and Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. CDT**. Webconference access will be made available to the parties.

The Commission will arrange for a court reporter for the hearings in this matter, and an expedited transcript will be provided. The costs for the reporter's services and the transcripts will be assessed to the Applicants.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed for attendance at the hearings, please call the Commission at (402) 471-3101. For people with hearing/speech impairments, please call the Commission at (402) 471-0213 (TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at (800) 833-7352 (TDD) or (800) 833-0920 (Voice). Advance notice of at least seven days is needed when requesting an interpreter.

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O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the deadlines and requirements established in this order and attached hereto are hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a hearing on this matter will be scheduled on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT and Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. CDT** in the Commission Hearing room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 9th day of December 2025.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BY:



Kevin Stocker
Hearing Officer