Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 07/01/2025 and ending 06/30/2026

A This return/report is for:
- ☐ a multiemployer plan
- ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- ☒ a single-employer plan
- ☐ a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- ☐ the first return/report
- ☐ the final return/report
- ☐ an amended return/report
- ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ ☐

D Check box if filing under:
- ☐ Form 5558
- ☐ automatic extension
- ☐ the DFVC program
- ☐ special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ ☐

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION FAMILY PROTECTOR BENEFIT PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 504

1c Effective date of plan 07/01/1986

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION
DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

11 EAST PARK STREET
BUTTE, MT 59701

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-0172280

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 605-978-2826

2d Business code (see instructions) 221100

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/13/2026	CHRISTOPHER FORBECK
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/13/2026	JEFF BERZINA
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
CHRISTOPHER FORBECK
3010 WEST 69TH STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57108

3b Administrator's EIN: 46-0172280

3c Administrator's telephone number: 605-978-2826

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:
a Sponsor's name
c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	2
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	2
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	2
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
4L

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	☐	Insurance
(2)	☐	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	☐	Trust
(4)	☒	General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	☐	Insurance
(2)	☐	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	☐	Trust
(4)	☒	General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** ☐ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(4)** ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(5)** ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- **(1)** ☐ **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- **(4)** ☐ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- **(6)** ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

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- ☐ automatic extension
- ☐ the DFVC program
- ☐ special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
NorthWestern Corporation Family Protector Benefit Plan

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 504

1c Effective date of plan 07/01/1986

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
NorthWestern Corporation

dba NorthWestern Energy

11 East Park Street

Butte MT 59701

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 46-0172280

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number (605) 978-2826

2d Business code (see instructions) 221100

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Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Signature of plan administrator	Date 10/12/26	Christopher Forbeck Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date 10/12/26	Jeff Berzina Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor

Employee Benefit Administration
Committee
Christopher Forbeck
3010 West 69th Street

Sioux Falls SD 57108

3b Administrator's EIN: 46-0172280

3c Administrator's telephone number: (605) 978-2826

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

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- (3) ☐ Trust
- (4) ☒ General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

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If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____