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IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s) UTILITY DIVISION
Application for Approval of Electric Supply)
Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected) DOCKET NO. D2008.5.45
Electric Supply Cost)

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s) UTILITY DIVISION
Application for Approval of Electric Supply)
Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected) DOCKET NO. D2009.5.62
Electric Supply Cost)

MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern”), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Motion to Consolidate Docket No. D2008.5.45 (“2008 Electric Tracker Docket”) with Docket No. D2009.5.62 (“2009 Electric Tracker Docket”), and brief in support thereof (“NorthWestern Motion”).

I. Background

On May 30, 2008, NorthWestern filed with the Commission its annual Application for Approval of Electric Supply Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected Electric Supply Cost (“2008 Application”) pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-210 (2007) and Commission rules. On June 9, 2008, the Commission noticed the 2008 Application and set an intervention deadline for June 26, 2008. The Commission, by Notice of Staff Action issued July 8, 2008, granted intervention to the Montana

Consumer Counsel, the only party to request intervention in the 2008 Electric Tracker Docket. NorthWestern subsequently provided updates to the 2008 Application on June 26 and July 17, 2008. The Commission issued Interim Order No. 6921 on June 27, 2008, setting rates for service rendered on and after July 1, 2008. The Commission has never issued a procedural order in the 2008 Electric Tracker Docket nor has it otherwise taken any further action.

II. Discussion

Montana law, Commission rules and the Deferred Accounting Electric Procedure approved by the Commission in Docket No. D2001.10.144 on June 26, 2002 require NorthWestern to submit an annual electric supply tracker filing by no later than May 30 of each year. *See* Mont. Code Ann. §§ 69-8-419 - 421 and ARM §§ 38.5.8201 – 8301. These annual tracker filings reflect rate treatment for the balance in NorthWestern's Electric Supply Deferred Cost Account for the previous twelve-month period (e.g. July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) and reflects the projected load, supply and related electric cost for the future twelve-month period (e.g. July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). By consolidating the 2008 Electric Tracker Docket with the 2009 Electric Tracker Docket, the Commission will enjoy judicial economy by processing two dockets containing similar issues and witnesses in one single proceeding.

Commission staff has contacted NorthWestern and it does not object to NorthWestern's consolidation of these Dockets. Moreover, the Commission, recognizing the judicial efficiency of processing two similar dockets in one proceeding, has previously consolidated annual electric supply tracker filings for processing. *See, e.g.* Notice of Commission Action, Docket No. D2006.5.66 (July 2, 2007) (consolidating the

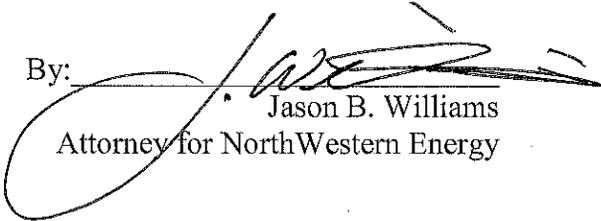
electric tracker Docket No. D2006.5.66 with electric supply tracker Docket No. D2007.5.46). Accordingly, no party will be prejudiced by the granting of the NorthWestern Motion and doing so will help alleviate the Commission's busy contested case agenda.

WHEREFORE, NorthWestern respectfully requests the Commission grant NorthWestern's motion to consolidate the 2008 Electric Tracker Docket with the 2009 Electric Tracker Docket.

Respectfully submitted this 29th day of May 2009.

NorthWestern Corporation

By: _____


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