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Attorney for NorthWestern Energy

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)

PREHEARING MEMORANDUM

NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern"), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby submits this Prehearing Memorandum in the above captioned dockets.

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" or "Docket D2008.5.45") pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-210 (2007) and Commission rules. On May 29, 2009, NorthWestern filed with the Commission its annual Application for Approval of Electric Supply Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected Electric Supply Cost ("2009

Application” or “Docket D2009.5.62”) pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-210 (2009) and Commission rules. On June 19, 2009, the Commission consolidated Docket D2008.5.45 with Docket D2009.5.62. On July 8, 2009, the Commission issued Procedural Order No. 6921b setting various deadlines, including a deadline of January 6, 2010 for prehearing memoranda.

II. Statement of Issues

The only issue before the Commission is the approval of the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement NorthWestern and the Montana Consumer Counsel submitted on December 1, 2009.

III. Witnesses

NorthWestern proposes to have a panel of two witnesses, Patrick R. Corcoran, Vice President-Regulatory and Government Affairs and John D. Hines, Chief Supply Officer, present the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement to the Commission and answer any questions the Commissioners or Commission staff may have. NorthWestern does not plan on calling any other witnesses. That said, NorthWestern’s witnesses that submitted prefiled testimony in either of the above-captioned dockets will be available for questioning, if necessary.

IV. Evidence

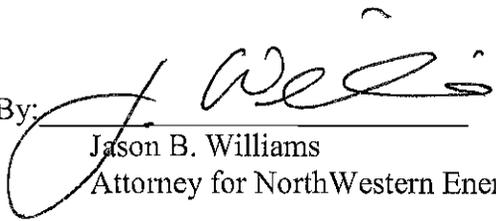
NorthWestern intends to introduce into evidence the following:

- a. The pre-filed direct testimonies of its witnesses.
- b. All exhibits attached to pre-filed direct testimonies.
- c. Any exhibit identified by an Intervenor.
- d. Any document needed for impeachment.

- e. Any response to a data request or document produced in response to any data request needed for impeachment or re-direct.
- f. Any document or exhibit identified by the Commission or Commission staff.

Respectfully submitted this 6th day of January, 2010.

NorthWestern Energy

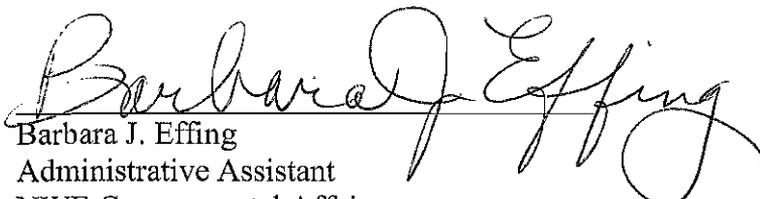
By: 

Jason B. Williams
Attorney for NorthWestern Energy

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of NorthWestern Energy's Prehearing Memorandum has been served on the most recent service list in the combined Dockets D2008.5.45 and D2009.5.62 by first class mail and efiled with the PSC.

Date: January 6, 2010


Barbara J. Effing
Administrative Assistant
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A. Service List D2005.5.48
D2009.5.62
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