

Service Date: June 18, 2009

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHWESTERN)	UTILITY DIVISION
ENERGY, Annual Application for Approval of)	
Monthly Gas Cost Tracker True-up, Projected)	DOCKET NO. D2009.5.63
Gas Costs, and Gas Transportation Balance)	

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE

On June 2, 2009, NorthWestern Energy (NWE), filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) its annual natural gas cost tracking application. NWE is requesting approval of a rate change: (a) reflecting rate treatment for unreflected gas costs for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2009; (b) reflecting gas cost projections for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2010; (c) reflecting rate treatment for amortization of the gas transportation adjustment clause balance as of April 30, 2009; and (d) extinguishing the unit amortizations in the current rate schedules. NWE estimates the rate increase resulting from this application for a typical residential customer using 10 dekatherms per month will be \$6.99 per month or a 7.47 percent increase on a typical monthly bill.

A copy of NWE's application is available for inspection at the business offices of NWE, 40 East Broadway, Butte, Montana 59701, the PSC, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620-2601, and the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC), 616 Helena Avenue, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620-1703, telephone (406) 444-2771. The MCC is available and may be contacted to assist and represent the interests of the consuming public in this matter.

Any interested person who is directly affected by this application before the PSC and who intends to protest the application as a party must intervene by filing a Petition for Intervention with the PSC at the above address no later than July 16, 2009. Any Petition for Intervention must be electronically submitted (e-filed) on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov/eDocsLogin.asp>. The filing party must also deliver or mail the original Petition for Intervention in paper format to the PSC so that it is received by the filing deadline. The PSC will upload e-filed documents to the PSC's website after the paper original has been officially received at the PSC office. One copy must be served on NWE and the MCC at the above addresses.

Any interested person who prefers not to formally participate in the matter as an intervenor may submit written comments on the matter to the PSC at the above address. Public comments may also be submitted to the PSC through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments/>.

The PSC's jurisdiction over this matter is provided at Title 69, MCA. The substantive and procedural law applicable is Title 69, MCA, especially at Ch. 3 (public utilities), ARM Title 38, Ch. 5 (utilities), Title 2, Ch. 4, MCA (MAPA), ARM Title 38, Ch. 2 (PSC procedural rules), and any prior orders of the PSC which may bear on the issues presented.

If necessary, a procedural order governing the procedure and schedule in this matter will be issued following the deadline for intervention. The PSC and persons having petitioned for intervention in this proceeding may direct discovery to NWE at anytime up to and including the procedural schedule final date for discovery on the utility application. NWE must respond within fourteen calendar days to all discovery requests directed to it more than fourteen calendar days prior to the deadline. Discovery issued less than fourteen days prior to the deadline must be answered according to direction in the procedural order.

If there are no intervenors in this docket the Commission may schedule a hearing on its own motion, or may rule on the application based on the information contained in the NWE filing.

The PSC initially notices proceedings through use of general service lists. Interested persons not intervening, but wishing to remain on the service list to receive notices and orders must notify the PSC in writing by the date fixed for intervention. Failure to submit notification will result in removal from the service list in this docket.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GREG JERGESON, Chairman
KEN TOOLE, Vice-Chairman
GAIL GUTSCHE, Commissioner
BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner
JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner