

Montana Consumer Counsel



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August 19, 2010

TO: Ms. Kate Whitney
FROM: Mandi Shulund Hinman
RE: Docket No. D2010.5.50-NorthWestern Energy

Enclosed is the original Montana Consumer Counsel Data Requests to NorthWestern Energy in the above matter. Thank you.

Cc: Service List

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

IN THE MATTER Of Northwestern Energy's)
Application for Approval of Electric Supply) UTILITY DIVISION
Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected) DOCKET NO. D2010.5.50
Electric Supply Cost)

**MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUESTS
TO
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

MCC-1. RE: 2008/2009 Default Supply Tracking Period.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide an electronic working copy of Exhibit__(FVB-1) 08-09, with all links intact, including all workpapers.

MCC-2. RE: 2009/2010 Default Supply Tracking Period.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide an electronic working copy of Exhibit__(FVB-2) 09-10, with all links intact, including all workpapers.

MCC-3. RE: 2009/2010 Deferred Supply Cost Expense.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please explain in detail the Annual True-up Adjustment of \$3,734,430 for March 2010 in the Deferred Supply Cost Expense as shown on page 2 of 6, Exhibit__(FVB-3)_09-10. Please provide all workpapers showing how it was calculated, and explain why it is shown for March 2010.

MCC-4. RE: 2009/2010 Transmission Costs.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all documents and calculations supporting the transmission cost of \$7,667,096 for the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period. Also, please provide the most updated transmission costs as they become available.

MCC-5. RE: 2009/2010 Regulation Costs.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide detail monthly cost for regulation in the default supply tracker period 2009/2010, identifying the monthly costs associated with United Materials of Great Falls (UMGF).

MCC-6. RE: 2009/2010 Fixed Price Transactions.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all supporting documents for the net fixed price purchase requirement of 1,016,387 MWhs during the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period, indicating quantity and price for each sale and purchase.

MCC-7. RE: 2009/2010 CU4 Variable Cost.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Through discovery in the previous tracker proceeding, NWE stated the reasons for the outage of CU4 from March to November 2010, and provided a modified exhibit with revised estimated default supply from CU4 for a total of 723,044 Mwhs for tracker period 2009/2010. In this docket, the actual default supply from CU4 is 823,896 Mwhs.

- a. Please provide and explain the reasons why the actual output for default supply from CU4 is higher than expected during the 2009/2010 tracker period.
- b. Please provide a schedule showing the actual total monthly output of CU4 and the corresponding breakdown by ownership for the period January 2009 through June 2010.
- c. Please provide a schedule showing the hours that CU4 has been out of service from January 2009 to present, indicating the reason for such outages.

MCC-8. RE: 2009/2010 Market Transactions.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all supporting documents for the net market purchase requirement of 779,148 MWhs during the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period, indicating quantity and price for each sale and purchase.

MCC-9. RE: 2009/2010 QF-1 Tariff Contracts.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

- a. Please provide all supporting documents for the QF-1 Tariff Contracts, totaling 10,639 MWhs during the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period, indicating monthly quantity and price for each transaction.
- b. Please explain why the monthly unit cost of these contracts varies from a low of \$11.521/Mwh to a high of \$49.90/Mwh.
- c. Please explain why the monthly quantity (Mwhs) for these contracts were lower than estimated in the previous default supply tracker filing (Docket D2008.5.45).

MCC-10. RE: 2009/2010 DSM Lost T&D Revenues Adjustment.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all workpapers and calculation supporting the \$1,552,689 adjustment per Final Order 6921c shown on page 4 of 6, Exhibit __ (FVB-2)_09-10.

MCC-11. RE: 2009/2010 DSM Lost T&D Revenues.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all workpapers and calculations supporting the estimated DSM Lost T&D Revenues of \$119,056 for the months of May and June 2010, as shown on page 4 of 6, Exhibit __ (FVB-2)_09-10.

MCC-12. RE: 2009/2010 Administrative Expense.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all documents supporting the \$2,131,237 in administrative expenses as shown on page FVB-13 of your testimony. Please itemize each cost (e.g., outside legal services, scheduling, software, broker, consultants, etc.).

MCC-13. RE: 2009/2010 CU4 Variable Cost.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please explain in detail why the actual fuel cost for CU4 for February 2010 was very low when compared to other months in the 2009/2010 tracker period (i.e., in February 2010, actual fuel cost is \$445,217 with corresponding default supply from CU4 of 83,952 Mwhs, while in December 2009, actual fuel cost was \$1,614,282 with corresponding default supply from CU4 of 87,509 Mwhs).

MCC-14. RE: 2009/2010 CU4 Variable Cost.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please explain why there are no 2009 Tracker YNP Mwh reported (Exhibit__(FVB-2)_09-10, page 6 of 6), when there were a total of 4,932 Mwh reported as 2008 Tracker YNP Mwh (Exhibit__(FVB-1)_08-09, page 6 of 6).

MCC-15. RE: 2009/2010 CU4 Variable Cost.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please explain in detail the Revenue Credit Adjustment of \$-5,652 for March 2010, shown on line 26 of the Colstrip Unit 4 Variable Cost spreadsheet (Exhibit__(FVB-2)_10-11, page 6 of 6).

MCC-16. RE: 2009/2010 CU4 Variable Cost.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please explain in detail the MPSC & MCC Regulatory Liability entry of \$-92,555 shown for estimated June 10 in Exhibit__(FVB-2) 09-10, page 6 of 6.

MCC-17. RE: 2010/2011 Default Supply Tracking Period.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide an electronic copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(FVB-3) 10-11, including all workpapers.

MCC-18. RE: 2010/2011 Transmission Costs.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all documents and calculations supporting the transmission cost of \$5,314,418 for the 2010/2011 default supply tracking period.

MCC-19. RE: 2010/2011 Fixed Price Transactions.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all supporting documents for the net fixed price purchase requirement of 365,200 MWhs during the 2010/2011 default supply tracking period, indicating quantity and price for each sale and purchase. Also, please explain why the forecasted requirements are almost a quarter of what they were in the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period.

MCC-20. RE: 2010/2011 Market Transactions.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all supporting documents for the net market purchase requirement of 1,091,980 MWhs during the 2010/2011 default supply tracking period, indicating quantity and price for each sale and purchase. Also, please explain why the forecasted requirements are 40% greater than what they were in the 2009/2010 default supply tracking period.

MCC-21. RE: 2010/2011 Administrative Expense.
Witness: Frank V. Bennett

Please provide all documents supporting the \$1,745,276 in administrative expenses. Please itemize each cost (e.g., outside legal services, scheduling, software, broker, consultants, etc.).

MCC-22. RE: Deferred Supply Rates.
Witness: Cheryl A. Hansen

Please provide an electronic working copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(CAH-2).10-11, including all workpapers.

MCC-23. RE: Deferred Supply Rates.
Witness: Cheryl A. Hansen

Please provide an electronic working copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(CAH-3).10-11, including all workpapers.

MCC-24. RE: Electric Supply Derivation of Rates.
Witness: Cheryl A. Hansen

Please provide an electronic working copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(CAH-4).10-11, including all workpapers.

MCC-25. RE: Electric Supply DSM Program Spending & Budget.
Witness: William M. Thomas

Please provide an electronic working copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(WMT-2), including all workpapers.

MCC-26. RE: Electric DSM Lost Revenues.
Witness: William M. Thomas

Please provide an electronic working copy, with all links intact, of Exhibit__(WMT-3), including all workpapers.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

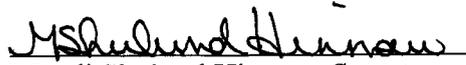
I certify that a copy of the forgoing Montana Consumer Counsel Data Requests to NorthWestern Energy has been served upon the following persons by first class mail this 19th day of August 2010:

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NorthWestern Energy
40 East Broadway
Butte, MT 59701-9394

Joe Schwartzenberger
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Mandi Shulund Hinman, Secretary