

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

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IN THE MATTER Of Northwestern Energy's            )       REGULATORY DIVISION  
2011-2012 Electricity Supply Tracker            )       DOCKET NO. D2012.5.49

**DATA REQUESTS OF THE MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL**

**MCC-044**    RE:    Basin Creek and Automatic Generation Control  
              WITNESS:   Kevin Markovich

On page 5, line 8 of the Supplemental Testimony of Kevin J. Markovich, Mr. Markovich states that the Basin Creek plant is not capable of being on Automatic Generation Control (AGC) therefore; all dispatch would have to be performed manually. However, Docket No. D2004.3.45, Order No. 6557c, page 9, paragraph 21 states that "NWE asserts that a benefit of integrating wind with a natural gas plant with automatic generation controls is in the rating matrix for evaluating all bids." This is confirmed in the Microsoft Excel file titled *Dispatchable Analysis R2 Final 5-18-04.xls*. Furthermore, on the tab titled *Rating*, Basin Creek scored a 2 out of a possible 2 for Automatic Generation Control Ability with respect to Project Price Value. Please state why AGC was so important during the RFP from which Basin Creek was chosen but Mr. Markovich states that Basin Creek is not capable of being on AGC?

**MCC-045**    RE:    Basin Creek and Regulation Services  
              WITNESS:   Casey Johnston

On page 4, line 11 of the Supplemental Testimony of Casey E. Johnston, Mr. Johnston states that NWE uses the Dave Gates Generating Station (DGGS) to provide regulation service in its Balancing Authority. In Docket No. D2004.3.45, Order No. 6557c, page 12, paragraph 29 states that, with respect to the Basin Creek Project, "NWE preferred the reciprocating engines alternative for several reasons. First, the technology would allow NWE to efficiently provide operating reserves and load following, which are ancillary services that are especially needed in the default supply portfolio...." Is Basin Creek capable of providing regulation services and if so, why is it not being used to provide regulation services?