

Service Date: June 15, 2012

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

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE

On June 1, 2012, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed its annual Electricity Supply Tracker (Application) seeking approval of: (1) The Electricity Supply Deferred Cost Account Balance (Deferred Balance) for Electricity Supply Costs¹; (2) the Deferred Balance for Colstrip Unit 4 (CU4) variable costs; (3) the Deferred Balance for Dave Gates Generating Station (DGGS) variable costs; and (4) the Deferred Supply Rate and projected Electricity Supply Rate, which includes the CU4 Variable Rate and the DGGS Variable Rate.

Specifically, NorthWestern sought to increase the Deferred Supply Rate to reflect a total Deferred Balance of \$8,502,457, which includes an under-collection of \$11,496,428 for Electricity Supply Costs offset by an over-collection of (\$2,993,971) for CU4 variable costs during the period from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. For a typical residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours per month, NorthWestern projects a 5.94% increase of \$2.62 per month or \$31.44 per year resulting from increases to the Electric Supply Rate and Deferred Supply Rate.

NorthWestern also requested interim approval of proposed rates effective July 1, 2012, which the Public Service Commission (Commission) may grant prior to the deadline for filing a petition to intervene.

A copy of the Application is available for inspection at the business offices of the Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601, and may also be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket D2012.5.49. The Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC), which represents consumer interests before the Commission and can be reached

¹ "Electricity Supply Costs" include any electricity supply costs **not** attributable to generation assets owned by NorthWestern (e.g. Colstrip Unit 4 and Dave Gates Generating Station).

at (406) 444-2771, also has a copy of the Application available for inspection at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620-1703.

Any interested person who is directly affected by the Application and wants to be a party to this docket must file a petition to intervene with the Commission **no later than July 9, 2012** (intervention deadline).

By the intervention deadline, a person petitioning for intervention must: (1) Submit the petition electronically (e-file) on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab); and (2) physically deliver or mail the original petition to the Commission at the above address. The Commission will not post an e-filed petition to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner. A person petitioning for intervention in this docket must also serve a hard copy of the petition on NorthWestern and the MCC at the address above.

An interested person who does not wish to formally intervene in this docket may mail or deliver written comments to the Commission at the above address, or submit the comments electronically on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Comment on Proceedings").

The Commission initially notices proceedings through use of general service lists. An interested person who does not intervene but wishes to receive all subsequent orders and notices through the service list for this docket must notify the Commission in writing by the intervention deadline.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Chairman
GAIL GUTSCHE, Vice Chair
W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Commissioner
BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner
JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner