

Service Date: May 21, 2013

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 PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a public hearing in the matter of the *Application for Approval of Electricity Supply Cost Account Balance and Projected Electric Supply Cost* (Application) filed by NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) on June 1, 2012. The hearing will commence **Tuesday, June 11, 2013, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Commission's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601, and continue day-to-day as necessary.

In its Application, NorthWestern seeks to increase the Net Deferred Electric Supply Rate to collect a deferred balance of \$8,502,457 from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. For a typical residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours per month, NorthWestern projected a 5.94% increase of \$2.62 per month or \$31.44 per year resulting from increases to the Electric Supply Rate and Net Deferred Electric Supply Rate. The Commission granted general intervention to the following parties on July 11, 2012: The Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC), the Human Resource Council District XI, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 69, Chapters 3 and 8 of the Montana Code Annotated. The Commission is required to "establish an electricity cost recovery mechanism that allows a public utility to fully recover prudently incurred electricity supply costs," subject to planning and procurement requirements, and "must provide for prospective rate adjustments for cost differences resulting from cost changes, load changes, and the time value of money on the differences." Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-210(1) (2011).

The Commission will conduct the hearing as a contested case under the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. See Mont. Code Ann. §§ 2-4-102(4); 69-3-303(2); see also Admin. R. Mont. 38.2.3901-4208 (2013). Parties to a contested case may jointly waive a formal proceeding in writing. Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-603(2).

A copy of the Application is available for inspection at the Commission at the above address, and on its website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket D2012.5.49. The MCC is available at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620, telephone (406) 444-2771, to represent the interests of the consuming public in this matter.

Anyone needing accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the hearing. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate individual impairments.

**BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman  
BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman  
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner  
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner  
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner