

Service Date: January 4, 2013

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

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHWESTERN) REGULATORY DIVISION
Energy's Application for Authority to Establish)
Increased Natural Gas Delivery Service Rates And) DOCKET NO. D2012.9.94
Implement Allocated Cost of Service Rates and)
Rate Design Proposals)

NOTICE OF COMMISSION ACTION

On September 28, 2012, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed its *Application for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas Delivery Service Rates and Implement Allocated Cost of Service Rates and Rate Design Proposals* with the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission). The Commission issued a *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* on October 3, and granted intervention to five parties, including the Large Customer Group (LCG), on October 25, 2012.

The LCG issued Data Requests LCG-001 through LCG-043 to NorthWestern on December 7, 2012. The Commission issued PSC-067 through PSC-077 on December 20, and PSC-078 through PSC-130 on December 21, 2012.

On December 14, 2012, NorthWestern filed timely objections to LCG's Instruction 12, LCG-006b, LCG-006d, LCG-008b, LCG-017, and LCG-042. NorthWestern filed timely objections to PSC-070b, PSC-073a, PSC-074a, and PSC-075b on December 27, and to PSC-086, PSC-087, PSC-110a, and PSC-118 on December 28, 2012.

On December 27, 2012, counsel for NorthWestern indicated by email that the LCG had agreed that the updating of data responses will be controlled by Rule 26 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure rather than LCG's Instruction 12. On December 28, 2012, NorthWestern filed *Responses to Data Requests LCG -001 through LCG-043*, in which it indicated that it had agreed to withdraw its objections to LCG-006b, LCG-006d, LCG-008b, and LCG-042. Commission staff indicated by email that it had withdrawn PSC-070b on January 2, 2013.

At a regularly-scheduled public work session on January 3, 2013, the Commission voted to overrule NorthWestern's objections to LCG-018, LCG-033, LCG-034, PSC-073a, PSC-074a, PSC-075b, PSC-086, PSC-087, PSC-110a, and PSC-118. The Commission also voted to require NorthWestern to fully respond to these pending Data Requests within seven days. The Commission did not rule on NorthWestern's objection to LCG-017b.

DONE AND DATED this 3rd day of January, 2013 by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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