

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

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IN THE MATTER OF the Application of ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets )  
Purchase ) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

**MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL  
REQUEST FOR DISCOVERY AND FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO  
COMMENT**

On December 9, 2015, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) submitted its required final compliance filing in the above-captioned docket. In its December 15, 2015, Notice of Filing and Opportunity to Comment, the Commission invited comments addressing the filing, "including requests for discovery." Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) submits the following response.

The adjustments proposed in the compliance filing are significant, netting a proposed rate increase of over \$31.6 million. There are many adjustments that contribute to this result, and a significant amount of data offered in support of the adjustments. Given the magnitude of the proposed increase, MCC requests the opportunity to submit discovery. It is not clear at this time whether further contested case procedures would be necessary, but MCC requests the opportunity to request such procedures after reviewing discovery responses.

Respectfully submitted January 4, 2016.

  
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