

Service Date: December 6, 2013

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

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
NorthWestern Energy for Approval to Purchase )  
and Operate the Hydroelectric Facilities of PPL ) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85  
Montana, LLC )

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY INTERVENTION**

On September 26, 2013, NorthWestern Corporation doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement with PPL Montana, LLC (PPL) to purchase PPL’s hydroelectric generating facilities in Montana. On October 11, 2013, NorthWestern notified the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) that by December 24, 2013, it intends to file an application seeking preapproval of the purchase. *See* Admin. R. Mont. 38.5.8228 (2013). The application will request allowable “generation assets cost of service” in electricity supply rates, and approval to issue any securities necessary to consummate the purchase, which includes the Hebgen Lake storage reservoir and the following hydroelectric generating facilities (along with other associated assets):

- Madison Dam
- Hauser Dam
- Holter Dam
- Black Eagle Dam
- Rainbow Dam
- Cochrane Dam
- Ryan Dam
- Morony Dam
- Kerr Dam
- Thompson Falls Dam
- Mystic Dam

Within 45 days of NorthWestern’s submission of an application for preapproval, the PSC “shall determine whether or not the application is adequate and in compliance with [its] minimum filing requirements.” Mont. Code Ann. § 69-8-421(2) (2013). To facilitate a timely adequacy determination, the PSC invites any interested person who will be directly affected by the application and wants to be a party to the proceeding to file a petition for early intervention **no later than December 31, 2013**. Although the PSC will set a regular intervention deadline in a subsequent notice, a person granted early intervention will not need to file a second petition to be considered a general intervenor in this proceeding.

By December 31, 2013, a person petitioning for early intervention must: (1) Submit the petition electronically (e-file) on the PSC'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 PSC, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601. The PSC will not post an e-filed petition to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner. The petitioner must also serve a hard copy of the petition on NorthWestern, 40 East Broadway Street, Butte, Montana 59701, and the Montana Consumer Counsel, 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620.

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

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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