

Service Date: March 19, 2014

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 Hydro Assets)
Purchase) DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct four initial public meetings in the Matter of the Application of NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets Purchase. Additional meetings will be noticed and take place in the following weeks across Montana.

The public meeting in Havre will commence on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building Ballroom at MSU-Northern Havre, 300 11th St. West, Havre, Montana.

The public meeting in Glasgow will commence on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood Inn and Suites, 45 First Avenue N.E., Glasgow, Montana.

The public meeting in Lewistown will commence on Monday April 14, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Montana Community Center, 307 W. Watson St., Lewistown, Montana.

The public meeting in Shelby will commence on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn, 455 McKinley, Shelby, Montana.

On September 26, 2013, NorthWestern Corporation doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement with PPL Montana, LLC to purchase its hydroelectric generating facilities in Montana. On December 20, 2013, NorthWestern filed its *Application for Hydro Assets Purchase* (Application). In its Application, NorthWestern requests preapproval to purchase the Hebgen Lake storage reservoir and the following hydroelectric generating facilities:

- Madison Dam
- Hauser Dam
- Holter Dam
- Black Eagle Dam
- Rainbow Dam
- Cochrane Dam

- Thompson Falls Dam
- Mystic Dam
- Kerr Dam
- Morony Dam
- Ryan Dam

In the Application, NorthWestern states that it has agreed to pay \$900 million plus or minus closing adjustments for the hydroelectric facilities. The 2014 test period revenue requirement is \$128,402,190. This consists of costs of \$66,570,901 and a return of \$61,831,289. This revenue requirement results in an increase of 4.22% or \$3.53 per month for an average residential customer using 750 kilowatt-hours per month.

The Commission's technical hearing in the case is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 8th, 2014 in Helena.

The meetings are for the purpose of receiving public comment for consideration by the Commission. Anyone needing an accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the meeting. 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