

February 18, 2015

Ms. Kate Whitney
Utility Division
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 2022601
Helena, Montana 59620-2601

**Re: Docket Nos. D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46 Electric Tracker
Updated responses to MEIC-2, MEIC-3, MEIC-6 and MEIC-9 in
MEIC Set 1 (001-011) Data Requests**

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Enclosed for filing is a copy of NorthWestern Energy's updated responses to MEIC-2, MEIC-3, MEIC-6 and MEIC-9 in MEIC Set 1 (001-011) data requests. These responses will be hand delivered to the Montana Public Service Commission and the Montana Consumer Counsel. These responses will be mailed to the service list in this docket, e-filed with the PSC, and emailed to counsel of record.

Should you have questions please contact Joe Schwartzenberger at (406) 497-3362.

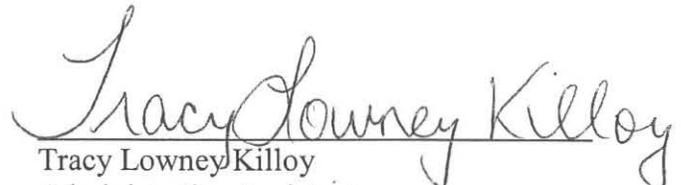
Sincerely,

Tracy Lowney Killoy
Administrative Assistant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of NorthWestern Energy's updated responses to MEIC-2, MEIC-3, MEIC-6 and MEIC-9 in MEIC Set 1 Data Requests in Docket Nos. D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46 has been hand delivered to the Montana Public Service Commission and to the Montana Consumer Counsel this date. These will be e-filed on the PSC website, e-mailed to counsel of record, and served on the most recent service list by mailing a copy thereof by first class mail, postage prepaid.

Date: February 18, 2015


Tracy Lowney Killoy
Administrative Assistant
Regulatory Affairs

Docket No. D2013.5.33/D2014.6.46
Service List

Al Brogan
NorthWestern Energy
208 N. Montana Ave Suite 205
Helena MT 59601

Charles Magraw
501 8th Ave
Helena MT 59601

Dr. Thomas M. Power
920 Evans Ave.
Missoula MT 59801

Joe Schwartzenberger
NorthWestern Energy
40 E Broadway
Butte MT 59701

Tracy Lowney Killoy
NorthWestern Energy
40 E Broadway
Butte MT 59701

Sarah Norcott
NorthWestern Energy
208 N Montana Ave Suite 205
Helena MT 59601

Kate Whitney
Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Ave
P O Box 202601
Helena MT 59620-2601

Robert A Nelson
Montana Consumer Counsel
111N Last Chance Gulch Ste 1B
P O Box 201703
Helena MT 59620-1703

Matthew Gerhart
Earthjustice
705 Second Ave. Suite 203
Seattle WA 98014

Jenny Harbine
Earthjustice
313 E. Main St.
Bozeman MT 59715

Monica Tranel
Montana Consumer Counsel
P.O. Box 201703
Helena MT 59620-1403

John W. Wilson
JW Wilson & Associates
1601 N. Kent Ste 1104
Arlington VA 22209

NorthWestern Energy
Docket D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46
Electric Tracker

Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club
Set 1 (001-011)

Data Requests received September 29, 2014

MEIC-2 Subject: Colstrip 4 Outage Cause
 Witness: Mike Barnes

Please provide any outage report(s) prepared by or for the Company for the Colstrip Unit 4 outage that lasted from July 1, 2013 to January 23, 2014.

RESPONSE:

NorthWestern has many emails responsive to this request. However, information contained within these emails discusses the repair process performed by Siemens. Siemens has advised NorthWestern that it intends to file a motion for protective order (Motion) regarding certain information that is included within the emails in NorthWestern's possession. Siemens indicated the Motion will be forthcoming. NorthWestern will provide an updated response to this data request to reflect the Commission's order regarding that Motion.

UPDATED RESPONSE (February 18, 2015):

See the public version of emails responsive to this data request in the "MEIC-2" folder on the attached CD. Pursuant to Commission Order No. 7283c, protected versions of these emails will be provided in the "MEIC-2" folder on a yellow CD to the Commission and the parties who sign the appropriate non-disclosure agreement.

NorthWestern Energy
Docket D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46
Electric Tracker

Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club
Set 1 (001-011)

Data Requests received September 29, 2014

MEIC-3 Subject: Colstrip 4 Outage Cause
 Witness: N/A

Please provide copies of the material used in any presentations to the Company's Board of Directors (and all committees or subcommittees thereof) or to the Company's President, CEO or CFO which addressed any of the following subjects:

- a. the Colstrip Unit 4 trip of July 1, 2013 or the cause(s) of that trip.
- b. the Colstrip Unit 4 outage which began on July 1, 2013 and lasted until January 23, 2014.
- c. The events or problems which prevented or were preventing the return of Colstrip Unit 4 to service following the July 1, 2013 trip.

RESPONSE:

See the attached CD. Please note that information that is not responsive to this data request has been redacted. Additionally, information that Siemens plans to protect (see the response to Data Request MEIC-2) or that discusses the Root Cause Analysis (see the response to Data Request MEIC-9) has been redacted in yellow. NorthWestern will provide an updated response to this data request to reflect the Commission's order on the Motion.

UPDATED RESPONSE (February 18, 2015):

Pursuant to Commission Order No. 7283c, protected versions of the pages containing yellow redactions in the public version of the Attachment originally provided on CD have been provided on yellow paper to the Commission and the parties who signed the appropriate non-disclosure agreement. Please note that irrelevant information remains redacted in black.

NorthWestern Energy
Docket D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46
Electric Tracker

Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club
Set 1 (001-011)

Data Requests received September 29, 2014

MEIC-6 Subject: Colstrip 4 Outage Cause
 Witness: Mike Barnes

Please refer to the direct testimony of Kevin J. Markovich, page 9, lines 12-14. Please provide a detailed description of the actions taken to bring Colstrip unit 4 back on line after the events of July 1, 2013.

RESPONSE:

Details are provided under three separate actions: determine extent of damage, plan and approval of a repair, execution of plan.

The actions taken to determine the extent of the damage are detailed in the Root Cause Analysis.

The actions taken to plan and approve a repair are detailed in the following:

- 7/11/13 1:05 email from Neil Dennehy;
- 7/16/13 2:20 email from Neil Dennehy including an attached Word file that includes the repair recommendation and request for authorization for the repair on Colstrip Unit 4 Generator; and
- 7/17/13 Owners meeting minutes records the unanimous approval of a repair plan to return the unit to service.

These are two of the emails responsive to Data Request MEIC-2 that contain information that Siemens plans to protect. Additionally, the Owners meeting minutes also contain information that Siemens plans to protect. NorthWestern will update this response to reflect the Commission's order addressing Siemen's Motion.

The actions taken to execute the repair plan are detailed in the following:

- 8/21/13 8:17 email from Neil Dennehy; and
- Shift repair reports.

These documents contain information that Siemens plans to protect. NorthWestern will update this response to reflect the Commission's order addressing Siemen's Motion.

NorthWestern Energy
Docket D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46
Electric Tracker

Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club
Set 1 (001-011)

Data Requests received September 29, 2014

MEIC-6 cont'd

UPDATED RESPONSE (February 18, 2015):

See Attachments 1 and 2 in the "MEIC-6" folder on the CD attached to the updated response to "MEIC-2". These include the public versions of the emails and the July Owners' meeting minutes, respectively, identified in the original response to this data request. Pursuant to Commission Order No. 7283c, the protected version of Attachment 1 is being provided in the "MEIC-6" folder on the yellow CD attached to the updated response to "MEIC-2" to the Commission and the parties who sign the appropriate non-disclosure agreement.

Additionally, pursuant to Commission Order Nos. 7283c and 7283d, a protected version of Attachment 2 is being provided on yellow paper to the Commission and the parties who sign the appropriate non-disclosure agreements. Please note that irrelevant information remains redacted in black.

The shift reports noted in the original response have been produced in response to MEIC-2.

NorthWestern Energy
Docket D2013.5.33/D2014.5.46
Electric Tracker

Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club
Set 1 (001-011)

Data Requests received September 29, 2014

MEIC-9 Subject: Colstrip 4 Outage Cause
 Witness: Mike Barnes

Have any outside consultants or companies investigated what caused the event that led Colstrip unit 4 to trip off-line on July 1, 2013?

- a. If yes, please produce all final reports from such outside consultant(s) and/or company/companies.

RESPONSE:

Yes, a Root Cause Analysis was completed collectively by independent outside consultants Ronald A. Halpern of Generator Consulting Services, Inc. and Robert Ward of Ward Electric Service Corporation.

- a. PPL, NorthWestern, and the other Owners of Unit 4 are still trying to determine if this document can be publicly disclosed. A determination should be made by November 7, 2014. Once a determination is made, NorthWestern will update this response.

UPDATED RESPONSE (February 18, 2015):

See Attachment, the public version of the Root Cause Analysis, in the "MEIC-9" folder on the CD attached to the updated response to MEIC-2. Pursuant to Commission Order No. 7283c, the protected version of this Attachment is being provided in the "MEIC-9" folder on the yellow CD attached to the updated response to MEIC-2 to the Commission and the parties who sign the appropriate non-disclosure agreement.