

March 11, 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
Second updated response to MEIC-9
MEIC Set 1 (1-11) Data Requests**

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Enclosed for filing is a copy of NorthWestern Energy's second updated response to MEIC-9 in MEIC Set 1 (1-11) data requests. This response will be hand delivered to the Montana Public Service Commission and the Montana Consumer Counsel. This response 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 Schwartzberger at (406) 497-3362.

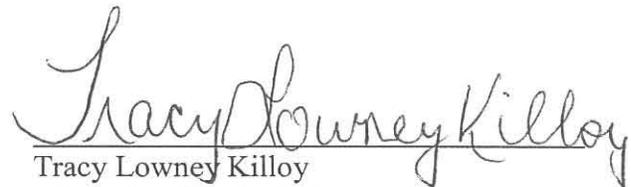
Sincerely,

Tracy Lowney Killoy
Administrative Assistant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of NorthWestern Energy's second updated response to 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. It 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: March 11, 2015

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Lowney Killoy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tracy Lowney Killoy
Administrative Assistant
Regulatory Affairs

Docket Nos.
D2013.5.33/D2014.6.46
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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.

SECOND UPDATED RESPONSE (March 11, 2015):

Subsequent to NorthWestern filing the updated response to this data request, Commission staff inquired about portions of the Root Cause Analysis that had been publicly disclosed in a regulatory proceeding in another state. This led to Siemens' decision to unredact language on two pages of the analysis. As a result, see the Updated Attachment, the revised public version, on the attached CD. Pages 5 and 46 now contain unredacted language.