

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

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IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy's 2012-2013 Electricity Supply Tracker)	REGULATORY DIVISION
)	DOCKET NO. D2013.5.33
)	
IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy's 2013-2014 Electricity Supply Tracker)	DOCKET NO. D2014.5.46
)	

**COMMENTS OF THE MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
IN RESPONSE TO NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S
MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION**

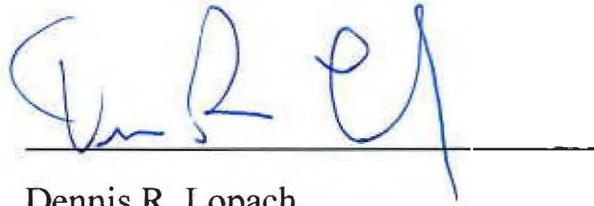
On May 23, 2016, NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed with the Montana Public Service (Commission) its Motion For and Brief in Support of Reconsideration of Final Order No. 7283h in this Docket. On May 27, intervenor Montana Environmental Information Center/Sierra Club (MEIC/Sierra Club) filed a Motion For Leave to File Response to that Motion. At its June 7 business meeting, the Commission voted to allow intervenors the opportunity to file responses by June 10.

MCC urges the Commission not to grant reconsideration. NorthWestern's Motion contains nothing in the nature of new argument that should prompt a re-examination by the Commission of its determinations in Order No. 7238h.

NorthWestern's arguments regarding the Commission's treatment of the incremental costs incurred by NorthWestern following the forced outage at Colstrip 4 in 2013, have already been presented and considered. NorthWestern's Motion provides nothing more than restated positions. MCC understands that NorthWestern doesn't like the result the Commission has reached. MCC also understands that MEIC/Sierra Club wants to challenge NorthWestern's assertions and arguments. There is no reason, however, for the Commission to belabor the existing record with further legal briefing.

The time allowed between the Commission's June 7 action and due date for these comments, four days, is insufficient for a detailed response. Under the circumstances, since the Commission should quickly deny the Motion, that would be sufficient. If, however, the Commission determines that NorthWestern has raised an issue that warrants further review, MCC encourages the Commission to invite the parties to address that specific issue. However, MCC submits that the Commission should simply deny reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted June 10, 2016.



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