

Service Date: April 21, 2015

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

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy's) UTILITY DIVISION
Application for Approval of Unreflected Gas)
Cost Account Balance and Projected Gas Cost,) DOCKET NO. D2013.5.34
and Gas Transportation Adjustment Clause)
Balance)

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy's) UTILITY DIVISION
Application for Approval of Unreflected Gas)
Cost Account Balance and Projected Gas Cost) DOCKET NO. D2014.5.47
and Gas Transportation Adjustment Clause)
Balance)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a public hearing on the *Application for Approval of Unreflected Gas Cost Account Balance and Projected Gas Cost, and Gas Transportation Adjustment Clause Balance* of NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE). **The public hearing will commence on May 19, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. at the Commission's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620.** The hearing will continue from day to day, as necessary.

On May 29, 2014, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy (NWE) submitted its annual Natural Gas Cost Tracker filing. NWE is requesting the following specific changes:

- (a) Reflect rate treatment for the deferred balance in the Unreflected Gas Cost Account ("UGCA") for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014;
- (b) Reflect rate treatment for amortization of the Gas Transportation Adjustment Clause ("GTAC") Balance as of April 30, 2014;
- (c) Extinguish the unit amortizations in the current rate schedules, approved in Interim Order No. 7282 from Docket No. D2013.5.47; and

(d) Reflect the projected load, supply, and related natural gas costs for the 12-month tracker period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

NWE also requests approval to continue to collect the cost of its interest in Bear Paw (Bear Paw) and Devon natural gas fields on an interim basis in this Docket until such time that a revenue requirement filing is processed by the Commission.

The projected natural gas supply rate for the 12-month period starting July 1, 2014 is \$0.49645 per therm, compared with the rate for the 12-month period starting July 1, 2013 of \$0.425044 per therm, which is a total increase of \$0.071406 per therm.

On June 10, 2014, the Commission approved NWE's request to combine D2013.5.34 with D2014.5.47.

The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is provided at Title 69, MCA. The substantive and procedural law applicable is Title 69, MCA, especially Chapter 3, ARM Title 38, Ch. 5 (utilities), Title 2, Ch. 4, MCA (MAPA), ARM Title 38, Ch. 2 (PSC procedural rules), and any relevant prior orders of the Commission. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving technical evidence (testimony and exhibits) addressing the application. Testimony submitted at hearing is subject to cross-examination.

Anyone needing accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the hearing. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate individual impairments.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner
BOB LAKE, Commissioner