

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

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IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern) REGULATORY DIVISION
Energy's Application for Approval of)
Avoided Cost Tariff QF-1) DOCKET NO. D2016.5.39

**DATA REQUESTS OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST SOLAR
TO NORTHWESTERN ENERGY**

PNW-001

Regarding: Number of solar QF projects in the Interconnection Queue

- a. Please identify the number of solar QF projects in the NWE Interconnection Queue as of the date NWE filed its Application in this Docket.
- b. Please identify the number of solar QF projects in the NWE Interconnection Queue as of the date NWE filed its Emergency Motion in this Docket.
- c. Please identify the number of solar QF projects in the NWE Interconnection Queue as of the date of the Notice of Commission Action on NWE's Emergency Motion in this Docket.
- d. Please identify the number of solar QF projects in the NWE Interconnection Queue as of the date Autumn Mueller of NWE notified developers that: "The stay affects not only the execution of Purchase Power Agreements, but Interconnection Agreements. As long as the stay is in place, NorthWestern cannot execute a new Interconnection Agreement for any solar QF project between 100 kW and 3 MW in size seeking a contract at the standard long term rate. Although NorthWestern cannot currently execute any new Interconnection Agreements for such facilities, it will complete all contracted for study work necessary to preserve queue position for a requested interconnection. If, for any reason, you do NOT want NorthWestern to complete your study work, you need to advise us of that fact, via email, as soon as possible. However, if you do later decide you want an interconnection, you will have to reapply, and your queue position will be determined as of that date."

PNW-002

Regarding: Separation of Interconnection and Contracting Groups

- a. Please confirm that NWE's Contracting Group (dealing with Power Purchase Agreements) notified the Interconnection Group that Pacific Northwest Solar was seeking a specific Power Purchase Agreement under Schedule QF-1 and the date of such communication between those groups.
- b. Please confirm whether NWE believes it is acceptable under FERC Guidelines to communicate between the Interconnection Group and Contracting Group at NWE.
- c. Please provide the rationale of NWE in halting all interconnection efforts for only those solar QF projects seeking a Power Purchase Agreement under Schedule QF-1.
- d. Please provide the rationale of NWE requiring developers to pursue all interconnection studies and then refusing to execute an interconnection agreement as being in conformance with FERC Guidelines.
- e. Please provide the rationale of NWE requiring developers to pursue all interconnection studies and then refusing to execute an interconnection agreement as being in conformance with the Commission's rulings.

PNW-003

Regarding: Execution of Schedule QF-1 Power Purchase Agreements

- a. Please confirm the number of Schedule QF-1 Power Purchase Agreements NWE signed on or before February 15, 2016, and the dates of those signatures.
- b. Please confirm the number of Schedule QF-1 Power Purchase Agreements between NWE and PNW that were signed by NWE on or before June 16, 2016.
- c. Please confirm whether and how many Schedule QF-1 Power Purchase Agreements were executed by entities other than Pacific Northwest Solar between January 1, 2016 and June 16, 2016 that were also signed by NWE.
- d. Please identify the dates when NWE signed any Schedule QF-1 Power Purchase Agreements executed by entities other than Pacific Northwest Solar between January 1, 2016 and June 16, 2016.