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

IN THE MATTER OF inquiry by the Montana Public Service Commission into its Implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978	)))))	REGULATORY DIVISION DOCKET NO. N2015.9.74

COMMENT

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), acting through its State Water Projects Bureau (SWPB), is owner and operator of the Broadwater Power Project at Toston, Montana. The Broadwater Hydroelectric Plant is a Qualifying Facility (QF) under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). SWPB holds an existing Cogeneration and Small Power Production Long-Term Power Purchase Agreement with NorthWestern Energy (NWE) for the Broadwater facility. SWPB also has the ongoing responsibility to study the economic and environmental feasibility of fitting each of its water projects with hydroelectric generating capability and currently holds FERC preliminary permit for hydroelectric development at its Tongue River Reservoir Project. The Montana Public Service Commission's review of its implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) and any changes to existing policies or rules that may result could directly impact SWPB's future sale of power at Toston and decisions whether to develop its other projects for hydroelectric generation. At this time, SWPB has no specific suggestions on the issues being reviewed by the Commission, but may wish to comment on specific proposals by

other commenters. SWPB requests that it be included in the roundtable discussions and review being conducted by the Commission.

Submitted this 21st day of October, 2015.

DNRC STATE WATER PROJECTS BUREAU

By: _____

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