

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

October 9, 2020



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MEDIA ADVISORY: PSC TO HOLD VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS ON COLSTRIP UNIT 4 ACQUISITION

HELENA, Montana — The Montana Public Service Commission will hold a series of virtual listening sessions on NorthWestern Energy’s proposal to buy an additional ownership share of Colstrip Unit 4. The details of the listening sessions are as follows:

WHO: Montana Public Service Commission.

WHAT: Public listening sessions (via Zoom) on NorthWestern Energy’s proposal to acquire additional ownership of Colstrip Unit 4.

WHEN: October 13, 2020, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
October 20, 2020, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
October 27, 2020, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: By audio-only conference (Zoom), which will be streamed live on the Commission’s website: <http://psc.mt.gov/livestream>.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the listening sessions will be conducted by Zoom audio-only conference. To coordinate comments through Zoom, anyone who wants to provide comment at a listening session must contact the Commission to be added to the list of commenters. Commenters may email the commission at pschelp@mt.gov or call the Commission’s toll-free number at 800-646-6150 and leave a message with the commenter’s name, phone number, email address, and the date of the session they plan to attend. A Commission representative will respond with instructions for providing comments during the listening session.

The Commission will not take questions at the listening sessions, however, members of the media and the general public are invited to stream the sessions live from the Commission’s website: <http://psc.mt.gov/livestream>. Anyone unable to attend the public listening session may

submit written comments to the Commission by email to pschelp@mt.gov, or through the Commission's website, <http://psc.mt.gov>.

On December 9, 2019, NorthWestern signed an agreement with Puget Sound Energy, Inc. to buy Puget's 25% interest in Colstrip Unit 4, including real estate, equipment, facilities, and energy production, for \$1.00. That agreement was renegotiated after Talen Montana, LLC, exercised a first right of refusal to buy half of Puget's interest. As a result, NorthWestern now seeks Commission approval to buy a 12.5% interest in Colstrip from Puget, including 92.5 megawatts of energy production, for \$0.50. Without the Commission's approval, NorthWestern cannot include the operating costs associated with its increased ownership stake in rates it charges Montana customers.

The Commission regulates private investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water, and sewer companies, certain motor carriers, and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety. The Commission works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. For more information, visit psc.mt.gov or contact the Commission at 1-800-646-6150. Follow the Commission at [Twitter.com/@MT_PSC](https://twitter.com/MT_PSC) or visit [Facebook.com/MontanaPSC](https://facebook.com/MontanaPSC).

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