



Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 202601
Helena MT 59620-2601

August 29, 2005

For more information, contact:
Greg Jergeson – 406-444-6166
Eric Eck – 406-444-6183

**PSC TO HOLD SEPTEMBER 7 HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S
ELECTRIC DEFAULT SUPPLY TRACKER CASES**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing concerning the pending 2003 and 2004 NorthWestern Energy annual electric default supply cost tracker cases on Wednesday, September 7, at 9 a.m. in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue.

NorthWestern files an annual electric supply cost tracking and recovery case in order to adjust its rates to reflect the costs the utility actually paid for electricity in the prior year. The utility purchases wholesale electricity from producers and passes the cost directly to customers without mark-up. During the annual electric supply trackers, the PSC evaluates the reasonableness of NorthWestern's management of its portfolio of wholesale electricity purchase contracts.

The two major issues in the 2003 and 2004 trackers are NorthWestern's proposal for a rate adjustment to recover delivery service revenues that are lost as a result of company-funded programs that help consumers conserve energy and whether or not to capitalize or continue to expense conservation costs.

###