



Montana Public Service Commission
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March 15, 2006

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**PSC TO HOLD MARCH 22 HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S
ELECTRIC DEFAULT SUPPLY TRACKER CASE**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing concerning NorthWestern Energy's annual electric default supply cost tracker on Wednesday, March 22, at 9:30 am 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 generating companies and marketers and passes the cost directly to customers without mark-up. During the annual electric supply tracker, the PSC evaluates the reasonableness of NorthWestern's management of its portfolio of wholesale electricity purchase contracts.

The two major issues in this annual electric default supply cost tracker D2005.5.88 are NorthWestern's mix of short-term versus long term resources to meet the needs of default supply and the proper level of forecasted prices for short-term purchases.

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