



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

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For more information, contact:  
Greg Jergeson – 406-444-6166  
Will Rosquist – 406-444-6359

**PSC TO HOLD HEARING DECEMBER 19 ON  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S 2006 & 2007 ELECTRIC SUPPLY TRACKERS**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing in Helena on Wednesday, December 19, concerning NorthWestern Energy's annual electric supply cost trackers for the years 2006 and 2007.

The hearing will begin 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 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 and prudence of NorthWestern's management of its portfolio of wholesale electricity purchase contracts.

NorthWestern Energy requests that electric rates be changed to reflect amortization of an over-collection of \$22,264,565 in the electric supply deferred costs account for the 12-months ended June 30, 2007 and to reflect projected load, supply and related electric costs for the 12-month tracker period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. NorthWestern Energy projects an overall decrease of \$1.52 per month (\$18.24 per year) on the total bill of a customer using 750 kwh per month, or a decrease of 1.98%.

In this proceeding, the PSC is also reviewing the results of an independent evaluation of NorthWestern's energy efficiency programs and PSC policies that address the utility's acquisition of energy efficiency.

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