



Montana Public Service Commission

Post Office Box 202601

Helena, MT 59620-2601

406.444.6199

<http://psc.mt.gov>

May 5, 2009 – *For immediate Release*

For more information contact:

Chair Greg Jergeson, 406.444.6166

Public Information Specialist Sarah Carlson, 406.444.6171

PSC Takes Crucial Vote in Allowing NWE Generation Ownership

NorthWestern Energy's (NWE's) plan to build and operate a natural gas fired generator east of Anaconda is one crucial step closer to becoming reality. Montana's Public Service Commission (PSC) voted four to one yesterday in favor of drafting the necessary documents to approve the company's application to construct and operate what is being called the Mill Creek Generating Station. Commissioners Gutsche, Jergeson, Vincent, and Toole voted in favor; Commissioner Molnar voted no. It is anticipated that the requisite legal documentation, known as a final order, will be reviewed and voted on by the Commission before May 22.

More information about Mill Creek is on the PSC webpage at <http://psc.mt.gov> under D2008.8.95.

Made up of 5 elected commissioners, the PSC works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. Utilities regulated by the PSC generally include private investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water, and sewer companies. In addition, the PSC regulates certain motor carriers, and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety.

-- ### --