

Site Selection Final Screening											Attachment 4	
NorthWestern Energy Combined Cycle Project											Final - 2/5/14	
No.	Selection Criteria	Site	Mill Creek		Billings Area		Corette		Silver Bow		Warren	
		Weighting	QF*	Total Rating	QF*	Total Rating	QF*	Total Rating	QF*	Total Rating	QF*	Total Rating
1	System Electric Transmission	20										
1A	Degree of Transmission Congestion	6	2	12	4	24	4	24	2	12	4	24
1B	Cost to Rectify Transmission Congestion	4	2	8	4	16	5	20	2	8	4	16
1C	Access to Transmission Grid	5	4	20	4	20	5	25	4	20	2	10
1D	Cost to Access Transmission Grid	5	4	20	4	20	5	25	4	20	4	20
2	Fuel Supply	19										
2A	Amount of Gas Available (direct supply or transmission impact)	6	2	12	2	12	2	12	2	12	3	18
2B	Cost to Rectify Gas Supply	5	2	10	4	20	4	20	2	10	3	15
2C	Cost to Rectify Gas Transmission	4	1	4	4	16	4	16	1	4	5	20
2D	Need for Backup Fuel	4	3	12	4	16	4	16	3	12	5	20
3	Local Stakeholder Support	5										
3A	Government	2	5	10	4	8	4	8	5	10	4	8
3B	Public	1	5	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	4
3C	Special Interests	2	4	8	3	6	1	2	5	10	2	4
4	Land Ownership	5										
4A	Type of Ownership	2	5	10	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8
4B	Cost of Land Acquisition	3	5	15	3	9	1	3	3	9	3	9
5	Work Force Availability	2										
5A	Construction Work Force Availability	1	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	2
5B	Availability of O/M Personnel	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	1
6	Water Supply	8										
6A	Water Supply Availability	4	4	16	4	16	5	20	5	20	4	16
6B	Cost of Developing/ Operating Water Supply System	4	5	20	2	8	4	16	4	16	2	8
7	Transportation Infrastructure	5										
7A	Roads	2	4	8	5	10	5	10	5	10	4	8
7B	Railroad	1	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	4	3	3
7C	Cost of Improving/ Construction Transportation Access	2	5	10	3	6	5	10	4	8	3	6
8	Air Quality Issues	10										
8A	Non-Attainment Area	4	5	20	1	4	1	4	2	8	5	20
8B	Class 1 Area	3	1	3	3	9	3	9	3	9	3	9
8C	Nearby High Terrain	2	4	8	5	10	5	10	4	8	5	10
8D	Availability of Meteorological & Air Quality Data	1	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	1	1
9	Potential Environmental Issues	17										
9A	Adjacent Land Use	3	5	15	3	9	2	6	4	12	3	9
9B	Wetlands	2	5	10	3	6	5	10	3	6	3	6
9C	Aesthetic (Visual) and Noise Impacts	2	5	10	3	6	5	10	4	8	3	6
9D	Geotechnical (Foundation/ Soil) Issues	2	4	8	3	6	2	4	4	8	3	6
9E	Threatened & Endangered Species	3	5	15	3	9	5	15	3	9	3	9
9F	Conflict with Historic/ Cultural/ Archeological Resources	3	5	15	3	9	5	15	3	9	2	6
9G	Wastewater Disposal	1	5	5	3	3	4	4	3	3	1	1
9H	Solid Waste Disposal	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
10	Permitting Issues	6										
10A	Major Facility Permit Required	1	4	4	2	2	4	4	2	2	2	2
10B	Other Environmental Permit Required	3	4	12	2	6	4	12	2	6	2	6
10C	Other Potentially Problematic Environmental Issues	2	5	10	3	6	4	8	3	6	3	6
11	Environmental Opportunities	3										
11A	Carbon Offsets	2	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4
11B	Other Forms of Environmental Remediation Available	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Total Weighted Rating	100		362		330		379		314		326

*QF= Quality Factor, expression of the magnitude of impacts based on rating between 1 and 5.