



June 28, 2017

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

Re: 2017 Resource RFP – Notification of Suspension Continuance

Dear Respondent:

NorthWestern Energy issued its 2017 Resource RFP in February, soliciting resource acquisitions from parties interested in providing up to 150 MW of dispatchable generation to serve load in Montana. On May 25, 2017, NorthWestern notified respondents of a temporary suspension in the evaluation of proposals. The purpose of this communication is to provide respondents with further clarification of this matter.

On Thursday, June 22, the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) conducted an open hearing in a proceeding (QF-1 Docket) to establish standard rates for small, renewable energy projects. The MPSC decided to cap the length of electricity supply arrangements available to such facilities at ten years. Based upon Commissioner commentary, the MPSC may evaluate all NorthWestern generation acquisitions based on similar criteria. NorthWestern has not received a final order and therefore cannot fully evaluate the consequences of the MPSC QF decision on the 2017 Resource RFP and securing long term generation supply. However, NorthWestern must continue the suspension of the 2017 Resource RFP until the completion of the QF-1 Docket. We regret any hardship this has caused respondents.

Please direct any questions to the independent evaluator. Respondents to the RFP should not contact NorthWestern directly.

Sincerely,

Bleau LaFave

Director Long Term Resources

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