

SECTION 9. TRANSPARENCY AND DOCUMENTATION

NWE believes this Natural Gas Procurement Plan provides a clear and transparent understanding of the approach Energy Supply will take in serving customers needs. Energy Supply Operations will follow this Plan (unless NWE, using its judgment, believes modifications are necessary). The procurement environment is highly complex, developments can be swift and often require experience to properly interpret, and transactions are numerous. That said, any deviations from this Plan will be clearly documented by Operations and discussed with interested parties. The importance of documentation in the regulatory process is clear.

NWE has attempted to provide a clear and defined acquisition strategy in this Plan and awaits feedback from the MPSC concerning its strategies. Discussions with the MPSC and MCC about the Plan, strategies and actions have been ongoing. NWE believes this method of communication should continue and will schedule discussions throughout the upcoming plan period.