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June 30, 2010

Ms. Kate Whitney
Administrator
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 202601
Helena, Montana 59620-2601

RE: NorthWestern Energy 2009 Electric Default Supply Resource Planning and Procurement Plan – Docket No. N2010.6.57

Dear Ms. Whitney:

NorthWestern Energy (NWE) hereby submits its 2009 Electric Supply Resource Procurement (2009 Plan). This plan is supplied to the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC or Commission) in accordance with 38.5.8226, Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM).

Eleven copies of this 2009 Plan are being provided to the MPSC, five copies to the Montana Consumer Council (MCC) and 1 copy to each of the members of NWE's Electric Technical Advisory Committee. NWE will soon place the 2009 Plan on the NorthWestern Energy website¹ for public review, and for those who make a request², an electronic copy on CD or hard copy paper version will be provided. The 2009 Plan consists of 3 volumes that can be provided individually or as a complete set. Volumes 1 – 3 consist of:

- Volume 1 contains the planning and analysis narrative and data references describing NWE's processes, inputs, methods, and results.
- Volume 2 consists of the supporting information and associated analysis for the updated DSM assessment from Nexant and Cadmus
- Volume 3 is comprised of background information, modeling and resource information, load forecast, and other technical data.

¹<http://www.northwesternenergy.com> Search on: "2009 Electric Plan"

²Contact: Nedra Chase at 406 497-2239

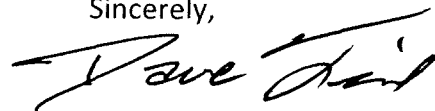
The 2009 Plan, consistent with the MPSC Default Electric Supplier Procurement Plan Guidelines in 38.5.8201 through 38.5.8229 (ARM), explains how NWE intends to provide retail customers with a reliable supply of electricity at reasonable prices and information related to avoided costs. The 2009 Plan covers a 20-year long term planning horizon and includes a 3-year action plan with specific goals and recommendations. NWE's load serving obligation includes a diverse set of regulatory requirements and other objectives. In seeking to plan for and achieve these electric supply objectives, NWE has attempted to employ a balanced approach to managing the electric resource portfolio through stakeholder involvement and by employing an open and transparent planning process.

Certain portions of Appendix 1, Energy Supply Hedging Strategy include information that NorthWestern considers confidential trade secret information. A public, or redacted, version of Appendix 1 has been included in the 2009 Plan. NWE will file a Motion for Protective Order regarding this information and will provide the information upon issuance of an order from the Commission.

NWE recognizes that the planning process is ongoing and subject to continual refinement and improvement. With each biennial Resource Plan filing NWE seeks to prepare and submit an improved plan document that reflects Commission comments and results of prior planning cycles. NorthWestern invites comments to the 2009 Plan and seeks an open dialog with Commissioners, Commission staff, and stakeholders.

For questions regarding the plan please contact Dave Fine at 406 497-3363 or John Hines at 406 497-7194. We look forward to future discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Fine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Fine
Director
Energy Supply Planning

CC: Montana Consumer Council
Electric Technical Advisory Committee