

Service Date: December 9, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern) REGULATORY DIVISION
Energy's 2015 Electricity Supply Resource)
Procurement Plan) DOCKET NO. N2015.11.91

NOTICE OF COMMISSION ACTION

According to the Administrative Rules of Montana, "A utility must file a comprehensive, long-term portfolio management and electricity supply resource procurement plan by December 15 in each odd-numbered year." Admin. Mont. R. 38.5.8226(1) (2015). On November 25, 2015, NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed a *Motion for Extension*, requesting until March 31, 2016 to file its 2015 plan. *Id.* at 38.2.305. According to NorthWestern:

The initial findings of the optimization study indicate that the scope of the changes are significant enough that it has altered NorthWestern's resource planning framework creating long-term implications for the configuration and operation of the supply portfolio.

Given these changes and implications, NorthWestern's work necessary to complete an electricity supply resource procurement plan is substantially more complex and time consuming than in prior years. . . . It has taken until the fourth quarter of 2015 to complete this work and move forward with the 2015 Plan analytics.

At a regularly-scheduled work session on December 8, 2015, the Commission granted the *Motion for Extension* and waived the December 15 deadline as it applies to NorthWestern this year, with the expectation that the 2015 plan will be filed by March 31, 2016 and the Commission will have little tolerance for additional extension requests.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner
BOB LAKE, Commissioner