

1 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
2 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
3 OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

\*\*\*\*

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF JAMES T. AND )  
ELIZABETH A. GRUBA; LEO G. AND JEANNE R. BARSANTI ON )  
BEHALF OF THEMSELVES & OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED, ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
Complainants. )  
VS. )  
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, ) DOCKET NO. D2010.2.14  
Defendant. )

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 PRE-FILED WRITTEN DIRECT TESTIMONY OF COMPLAINANTS' WITNESS, JOHN SODERBERG

6 ~~March 21, 2014~~  
7 INTERLINEATED ON MARCH 27, 2014

8 **Q. Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the written testimony**

9 **below and any written or oral testimony or responses to data requests following it will be the truth**

10 **the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?**

11 A. I do.

12 **Attorney. You will be under oath during this entire proceeding.**

13 **[Proof of Complaint ¶¶ IV, H & K.]**

14 **Q. Please state your name, residence, and email addresses, and phone number.**

15 A. I am John Soderberg. I live at 2400 Durston Road, Unit 10, Bozeman, MT 59718. My email  
16 address is [jdsoderbergs@gmail.com](mailto:jdsoderbergs@gmail.com) . My phone number is (406) 219-3036.

17 **Q. Please tell us about your education, occupations, and community involvement?**

18 A. I am a retired Methodist pastor. I grew up in Glendive, Montana and graduated from high  
19 school there in 1958. I received a BA in history from Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

1 My Masters in Divinity is from Drew Theological Seminary and my Doctor of Ministry is from St  
2 Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

3 I have served as the minister for the First United Methodist Church in Billings, and United  
4 Methodist churches in Roundup/Grass Range/Winnett, Fort Benton/Carter, Bozeman, and Eagan, MN. I  
5 currently participate on the Boards of the Gallatin Valley YMCA and the Luccock Park Church Camp. I've  
6 been on health, alcohol & dependency, and hospital boards in the communities where I have lived.

7 ~~Q. As a pastor, do you address scriptural appeals that we be good stewards of the earth?~~

8 ~~A. Yes. At the Bozeman United Methodist Church, we have an adult forum. It meets on Sunday~~  
9 ~~mornings and has explored sustainable living through conservation of energy.~~

10 ~~Q. As part of your group discussions, please tell us what you decided about trying to save~~  
11 ~~energy on the light in your church parking lot?~~

12 ~~A. Our forum heard a presentation showing LED parking lot lighting at a Methodist Church in~~  
13 ~~Seabrook, Texas and elsewhere. As a result, we recommended putting a LED light on a pole in our~~  
14 ~~parking lot to save energy. However, when our church trustees investigated the possibility of~~  
15 ~~converting our parking lot light to LED, I am told NorthWestern said it was its light pole and the church~~  
16 ~~could not put an LED light on it. It appears to me that NorthWestern may be using its power to profit at~~  
17 ~~taxpayer or business or church expense, and thus to thwart energy conservation.~~

18 ~~Q. As part of your testimony, are you providing pictures of the Seabrook, Texas Methodist~~  
19 ~~Church Parking Lot the parking lot of Tri-State Generation and Transmission, a~~

20

1 ~~supplier of energy to rural electric and municipal cooperatives in the Rocky Mountain region?~~

~~United Methodist Church, Seabrook, TX~~



~~Tri-State Generation & Transmission  
Denver, CO~~

~~<http://www.betaled.com/images/gallery/Tri-State-WestminsterCO-091609-002.jpg>~~



4  
5 ~~A. Yes, these are two of the pictures we saw. You will note how white and even the light is.~~

6 ~~Q. Do you know of any studies done on the use of LED lighting in parking structures?~~

7 ~~A. I remember seeing a presentation about the many advantages of LED lighting; increased~~  
8 ~~ground illumination, decreased light pollution of the night sky, dimming and~~

9

1 ~~motion sensing capability to provide light only when needed, and saving in the wattage needed to~~  
2 ~~power lights. I remember the payback period seemed to make retrofitting advantageous to our church.~~

3 ~~**ATTORNEY MOTION:** The Commission is asked to take administrative notice of the official~~  
4 ~~record of Gateway studies by the US Department of Energy concerning parking structure lighting.~~  
5 ~~Those results may be found online at~~  
6 ~~[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/gatewaydemos\\_results.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/gatewaydemos_results.html).~~

7 ~~At that link, the Commission will find a DOE Gateway study of LED lighting at Raley's~~  
8 ~~Supermarket which was completed in 2009. Raley's Supermarket installed LEDs in their parking lot~~  
9 ~~with dimming and motion sensing capability to provide light only when needed. Savings in the~~  
10 ~~wattage capacity needed to power the lights averaged 70%. Net present value (dollar savings) over a~~  
11 ~~15 year period for a retrofitted light was \$2,287 per light. The simple payback period for a LED~~  
12 ~~retrofit was 4.7 years.~~

13 ~~The Raley's experience demonstrates how parking lots in NorthWestern's service area can~~  
14 ~~save energy by putting in LEDs on a motion sensor and reducing the light when it is not needed. That~~  
15 ~~would allow better stewardardship of our earth's resources and further our Montana Constitutional~~  
16 ~~right to a clean and healthful environment.~~

17 ~~Even though the US DOE Gateway study of Raley's was done more than 4 years ago based on~~  
18 ~~costs for California, it is applicable to parking lots in Montana today. The percentage of energy and~~  
19 ~~maintenance savings are the same anywhere, even if the costs of those items differ. And as the~~  
20 ~~Commission will see from Mr. Smalley's testimony, luminaire costs have decreased considerably~~  
21 ~~over that time while lighting standards have also changed. For example, in August of 2013 CREE~~  
22 ~~Lighting put out a 25-watt (2,722~~

1 photopic lumen) luminaire costing \$99 that could replace the 70 watt high pressure sodium one in  
2 the Bozeman United Methodist Church parking lot. Lighting controls will add to that cost a bit.  
3 Because LEDs put out more light in the mesopic and scotopic spectrums than HPS units, not as much  
4 photopic light is needed from LED units to get visual performance results from the human eye that is  
5 equivalent to results from HPS units that emit higher amounts of photopic light than LED units.

6 Q. You sent me an email saying you had contacted a resident of your area who is on the  
7 NorthWestern Board, Dorothy Bradley, mentioning my name and asking her to review your pole  
8 situation. Did I tell you to contact Ms. Bradley?

9 A. No, I contacted her after a conversation with Carson Taylor, now mayor of Bozeman, who  
10 suggested I do so.

11 Q. When I received your email, did I email you back saying, "I am under legal ethical  
12 obligation to not speak or communicate with a person who is represented by an opposing attorney  
13 without that attorney's permission. ... Therefore, I cannot communicate with Dorothy or ask anyone  
14 else to do so either."?

15 A. Yes and Dorothy Bradley told me essentially the same thing.

16 Q. Other than to tell me when I asked you to testify on January 6, 2014, that you had talked  
17 to Ms. Bradley after my email to you about your concern about the use of your pole, did you relate  
18 to me anything about conversations you have had with her?

19 A. Only to say that she confirmed your legal inability to communicate with each other about  
20 your petition to the PSC, either directly or indirectly.

21 Q. Did you tell me about something you read recently concerning LED lighting priorities in  
22 Bozeman?

~~A. A recent Bozeman Chronicle article reported that the City Commission is looking at LED lighting as a cost effective and sustainable option for the community.~~

~~Q. Thank you Rev. Soderberg for your dedication in seeking to steward our earth's resources.~~

~~A. I'm grateful that the Commission is visiting this issue.~~

I, John Soderberg, do hereby certify that this 5 pages of typewritten material is a full, correct, and truthful rendition of my pre-filed written testimony given under oath.

  
John Soderberg  
State of Montana  
County of Gallatin

Signed and sworn to before me on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by John Soderberg.

  
Notary

