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

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern	)	
Energy’s Petition for a Waiver from	)	REGULATORY DIVISION
Compliance with the Community Renewable	)	
Energy Project Purchase Obligation for	)	DOCKET NO. D2016.4.33
Calendar Years 2015 and 2016	)	DOCKET NO. D2017.8.65

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**NorthWestern Energy’s Response to the Montana Environmental  
Information Center and NW Energy Coalition’s  
Notice of Intent to Provide Confidential  
Information to Employee Experts**

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On January 9, 2018, the Montana Environmental Information Center (“MEIC”) and NW Energy Coalition (“NW Coalition”) collectively filed a Notice of Intent to Provide Confidential Information to Employee Experts pursuant to Administrative Rule of Montana (“ARM”) 38.2.5024 (“Notice”). Such Notice indicates that Brian Fadie on behalf of MEIC and Diego Rivas on behalf of NW Coalition intend to file expert testimony in this docket. Notice, p. 1. As the providing party of the confidential information filed or expected to be filed in this docket, NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern”) has the right to object to any confidential information being provided to individuals who are employees of parties and intend to be experts in a Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission”) proceeding. ARM 38.2.5024(1)(b).

NorthWestern does not object to Brian Fadie or Diego Rivas receiving information designated as confidential information and protected by Commission-issued protective orders so long as each individual signs the appropriate Commission-issued Non-Disclosure Agreement (“NDA”). The NDA clearly sets forth that such individuals may not share any confidential information with anyone who has not signed an NDA, including other employees of their respective organizations. Also, by agreeing to allow these individuals to access confidential information, NorthWestern does not concede that Mr. Fadie and Mr. Rivas are in fact experts qualified to testify in this case as NorthWestern has not seen their testimonies or the subject(s) of their testimonies.

Respectfully submitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

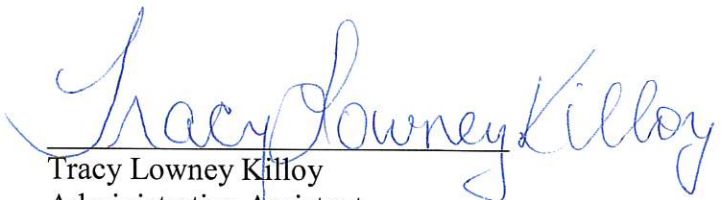
By:   
Sarah Norcott

Attorney for NorthWestern Energy

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that NorthWestern Energy's Response to the Montana Environmental Information Center and NW Energy Coalition's Notice of Intent to Provide Confidential Information to Employee Experts in Consolidated Docket Nos. D2016.4.33/D2017.8.65 has been hand delivered to the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) and the Montana Consumer Counsel this date. It has also been e-filed on the MPSC's website, emailed to counsel of record, and mailed by First Class Mail to the remainder of the Service List.

Date: January 11, 2018

  
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