

Service Date: October 25, 2017

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

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s	)	REGULATORY DIVISION
Consolidated Petition for a Waiver from	)	
Compliance with the Community Renewable	)	DOCKET NO. D2016.4.33
Energy Project Purchase Obligation for Calendar	)	
Year 2015 and for a Declaratory Ruling regarding	)	
the Administrative Penalty contained in Mont.	)	
Code Ann. § 69-3-2004(10).	)	
	)	
IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy’s	)	DOCKET NO. D2017.8.65
Petition for a Waiver from Compliance with the	)	
Community Renewable Energy Project Purchase	)	
Obligation for Calendar Year 2016.	)	

**NOTICE OF PETITIONS AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE**

The Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act requires that Montana utilities and their customers purchase renewable energy credits and electricity output from community renewable energy projects (“CREP”). This policy attempts to promote sustainable rural economic development, enhance Montana’s energy self-sufficiency and independence, and expand development of these resources to meet the state’s electricity demand and to stabilize electricity prices.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 20, 2016, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy (“NWE”), filed a consolidated petition for waiver from the CREP Purchase Obligation for 2015, and for a declaratory ruling regarding the administrative penalty with the Department of Public Service Regulation (“Commission”). On August 18, 2017, NWE filed a petition for waiver from the CREP Purchase Obligation for 2016. On October 24, 2017, the Commission voted to consolidate NWE’s two petitions. This consolidated petition will be conducted as a contested case proceeding. Mont. Code Ann. §§ 2-4-601 et seq.

NWE has filed, and the Commission has granted, three prior petitions for a waiver from CREP requirements. Dkt. D2011.6.53, Order 7177b (May 31, 2012); Dkt. D2013.10.77, Order 7334g (Dec. 9, 2014); Dkt. D2015.3.27 (May 17, 2016). The Commission has also previously denied NWE’s motion for a declaratory ruling regarding the CREP administrative penalty. Dkt. D2015.3.27, Declaratory Ruling (Jan. 5, 2017).

NWE's petitions are publicly available at the following locations: online at the PSC's website under Docket No. D2016.4.33 and D2017.8.65, and at the PSC's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana 59620-2601; at NWE's business offices, 11 East Park St., Butte, Montana 59701; and at the Montana Consumer Counsel ("MCC") business office, 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620-1703, telephone (406) 444-2771. The MCC is available to represent the interests of the consuming public in this matter.

The Commission invites parties directly affected by the consolidated petitions to intervene. To intervene parties must file a Petition to Intervene with the Commission no later than **November 17, 2017**, that includes submitting: (1) an electronic petition to the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" within the "Electronic Documents" tab); (2) the original petition by physical delivery or mail to the Commission address stated above; and (3) a hard copy of the petition to the MCC and NWE addresses above. The Commission will not post the electronic document to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner.

The Commission also invites interested parties who do not wish to formally intervene to submit written public comments on the matter to the Commission address stated above, or through its web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Comment on Proceedings").

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman  
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman  
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner  
BOB LAKE, Commissioner  
TONY O'DONNELL, Commissioner