

March 28, 2016

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. Will Rosquist
Administrator, Regulatory Division
Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 202301
Helena, Montana 59620-2601

RECEIVED
MAR 28 2016
MONT. P.S. COMMISSION

Re: CREP Waiver Filing 2015

Dear Will:

As you may be aware, NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy ("NorthWestern") was unable to secure additional Community Renewable Energy Project ("CREP") generating resources during 2015. That is the first year in which the statewide target for CREP generation, applicable to NorthWestern and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co., reached 75 megawatts of generating capacity under the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act, §§ 69-3-2001 et seq. NorthWestern's share of that target has been estimated at between 66 to 68 megawatts.

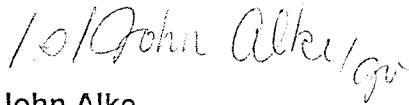
NorthWestern will be filing with the Commission a petition for a waiver of the 2015 CREP requirement. That filing will provide, in detail, support for the requested waiver. There is no provision in Montana law directing NorthWestern to make the filing at a particular time.

NorthWestern's petition for a waiver of the CREP requirement for 2014 is still pending before the Commission in PSC Docket D2015.3.27. Having that decision in hand would inform NorthWestern of any policy issues it should address in the upcoming filing for 2015. NorthWestern would like to receive the Commission's decision in PSC Docket D2015.3.27 before preparing its waiver request for 2015.

NorthWestern also has a significant internal resource issue. The people who are responsible for preparing NorthWestern's CREP waiver filing are heavily involved in preparing the Company's 2015 Resource Procurement Plan, and the associated biennial QF-1 filing. The Plan will be filed on March 31, 2016, and the QF-1 filing on April 30, 2016. From a resource allocation standpoint, it would be highly desirable if work on the CREP waiver filing did not have to begin until after April 30.

I do not know whether the Commission believes it can or should control the date of NorthWestern's CREP waiver filing. If it does not, NorthWestern will make its filing as soon as possible after the Commission issues its decision on the 2014 CREP waiver filing. If it does, NorthWestern respectfully requests a Commission Order or Notice of Commission Action specifying that NorthWestern file its 2015 waiver request within 60 days of the Commission's issuance of a final decision in PSC Docket D2015.3.27.

Sincerely,



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cc: Laura Farkas