

Service Date: May 24, 2016

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

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern Energy's) REGULATORY DIVISION
Application for Interim and Final Approval of)
Revised Tariff No. QF-1, Qualifying Facility) DOCKET NO. D2016.5.39
Power Purchase)

**NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MOTION AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND
REQUEST HEARING**

On May 3, 2016, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed an *Application for Approval of Avoided Cost Tariff Schedule QF-1* ("Application") with the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC). NWE requests that the PSC approve NWE's new QF-1 tariff on both an interim and final basis. The proposed avoided cost rates would apply to Qualifying Facilities (QFs) with a nameplate capacity of three megawatts or less on May 3, 2016.

"Standard rates" for purchases from QFs are based on NWE's "avoided costs," computed annually, reviewed by the PSC, made available to the public, and "applicable to all contracts with qualifying facilities which do not choose to negotiate a different rate." Mont. Admin. R. 38.5.1901(2)(j) (2016). In its Application, NWE proposes to decrease standard rates.

On May 13, 2016, the PSC issued a *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline*, setting an intervention deadline of June 10, 2016. On May 17, 2016, NWE filed a *Motion for Emergency Suspension of the QF-1 Tariff for New Solar Qualifying Facilities with Nameplate Capacities Greater than 100 kW* ("Motion"), as well as the supporting affidavit of John B. Bushnell.

The PSC hereby affords interested persons an opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments ("comments") related to NWE's Motion **no later than June 6, 2016**. In order to submit comments: (1) Submit the comments electronically (e-file) on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab); (2) physically deliver or mail the original comments to the PSC at 1701 Prospect Avenue,

Helena, Montana 59601; and (3) serve a hard copy of the comments on NWE, 208 North Montana Avenue, Suite 205, Helena, Montana 59601. The PSC will not post e-filed comments to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner. Upon its own motion or upon request by an interested party, the PSC may hold a hearing on **June 9, 2016** at 2:00 p.m. at the PSC's business offices.

A copy of the Motion is available for inspection at the PSC and also on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket D2016.5.39.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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