

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

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Joint) REGULATORY DIVISION
Application for Approval to Change and)
Establish Natural Gas Delivery Service) DOCKET NO. D2017.9.80
Rates for Energy West Montana, Inc.)
and Cut Bank Gas Company)

**DATA REQUESTS MCC-060 THROUGH MCC-079
OF THE MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL TO
ENERGY WEST MONTANA AND CUT BANK GAS COMPANY**

MCC-060

Regarding SME Pipeline
Witness: Kevin Degenstein

Was EWM planning to build the SME pipeline or some similar project, independent of the project that arose to serve the SME power generation facility? If yes, please provide all documentation, including e-mails, notes and any other information regarding those discussions and plans, such as siting information, engineering specifications, costs, completion dates, anticipated related revenues, etc.

MCC-061

Regarding: SME Pipeline
Witness: Kevin Degenstein

What percentage of the original capacity of the SME Pipeline was intended to serve the SME generation facility? What was the original operating pressure of the pipeline designed to serve the SME generation facility and does that pressure have to be stepped down for those EWM customers served from the pipeline?

MCC-062

Regarding: SME Pipeline
Witness: Kevin Degenstein/Jed Henthorne

Please describe in detail the process for purchasing the SME Pipeline for \$75,000:

- a. From whom was the pipeline directly purchased and when did the purchase close?
- b. Was the \$75,000 purchase price the result of negotiations or a bidding process? If there was a bidding process, please describe how it was conducted and whether there were other bidders, and if so, how many.
- c. Please explain and provide all documentation, including e-mails, notes and any other information regarding discussions and analyses of how EWM management decided upon an offer of \$75,000 for the SME Pipeline.
- d. Please provide all documentation, including e-mails, notes and any other information regarding discussions and analyses of the anticipated return of and on the \$75,000 investment by EWM in the SME Pipeline.

MCC-063

Regarding: Billing Cycle
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please describe and provide an example of the typical billing cycle for an EWM-Great Falls customer and for a Cut Bank Gas customer including:

- a. frequency of meter reads;
- b. when a bill is sent after the meter read and;
- c. when payment is due in relation to the time the bill is mailed out.

MCC-064

Regarding: Working Cash
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Has EWM or Cut Bank Gas Company had a lead-lag study performed within the past ten years? If yes, please provide a copy of all such studies.

MCC-065

Regarding: Depreciation Expense
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a depreciation schedule showing the amount subject to depreciation, the depreciable life and depreciation method used, and the annual depreciation expense per asset account, to derive the \$1,045,180 in depreciation expense that resulted from the final Commission decision in Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) docket number D2010.9.90.

MCC-066

Regarding: Depreciation Expense
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a depreciation schedule showing the amount subject to depreciation, the depreciable life and depreciation method used, and the annual depreciation expense per asset account, to derive the \$1,521,211 in depreciation expense requested for recovery in this current filing. Please explain any changes to any of the depreciation rates used in the schedule provided in response to Data Request MCC-006, discussing when those changes were implemented and the basis for each change.

MCC-067

Regarding: New Employees
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Page 18, lines 2-3 of Mr. Henthorne's direct testimony references two new employees, a GIS Technician in Great Falls and a Customer Service Representative in West Yellowstone. Please indicate the dates each of those individuals were added to the payroll.

MCC-068

Regarding: Interest Payments
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please indicate when interest expense payments for each current debt instrument are due from EWM and Cut Bank Gas respectively and the period that those payments cover (e.g. payment remitted on July 20 for January 1 – June 30th interest expense).

MCC-069

Regarding: Property Taxes
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide the detail of all property tax payments for EWM and Cut Bank Gas for 2015, 2016, and year-to-date 2017, including:

- a. the time period covered by those bills;
- b. when those bills were due; and
- c. copies of the bills.

MCC-070

Regarding: Board of Directors Fees
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a listing of the total amount of the annual Board of Director's fees showing:

- a. The total amounts paid to individual directors (names excluded) of each respective board;
- b. The amounts per board included for recovery in this current application from EWM customers and Cut Bank customers respectively.

MCC-071

Regarding: Payroll taxes
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please show how the individual elements (FICA, FUTA, SUTA, property taxes, etc.) that comprise the \$28,670 Adjustment to Taxes Other Than Income in column I of Exhibit JDH-EWM-6 were calculated and then reconcile to \$28,670.

MCC-072

Regarding: Net Plant Additions
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please update the estimate of net plant additions and associated accumulated depreciation through year-to-date 2017 and provide a further update once actual net additions through the end of the year are known.

MCC-073

Regarding: Advertising Expenses
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a listing of all advertising expenses for 2016 and 2017 that are proposed for recovery in the current rate application and provide an amount, date, and description for each item indicating the type of media used and what the message was, also provide a print sample of each item if available.

MCC-074

Regarding: Donations
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a listing of any charitable contributions made by Energy West or Cut Bank Gas in 2016 and 2017 and indicate whether any of those items are included for recovery in the current rate application.

MCC-075

Regarding: American Gas Association
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a copy or copies of all invoices of American Gas Association dues included for recovery in this current rate filing.

MCC-076

Regarding: Legal Expenses
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a listing of all legal fees included for recovery in this current filing including date, amount, service provider, and a description of the work performed and any regulatory filing the work was related to, if applicable.

MCC-077

Regarding: Regulatory Expenses
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide a listing of all regulatory expenses for 2015, 2016, and 2017 year to date including date, amount, service provider, and a description of the work performed and the related docket number(s). Please indicate the hourly rates charged and the hours billed by each respective service provider

MCC-078

Regarding: Capitalized Pension
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please explain the 5.81% and 3.22% capitalized pension amounts as shown on JDH-EWM-9, Rule 38.5.157 Page 4 of 8 for Great Falls and any like adjustments for the other operating districts and for Cut Bank Gas.

MCC-079

Regarding: Payroll
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please indicate the schedule for disbursing payroll to employees at the three Energy West operating districts and at Cut Bank Gas (e.g. weekly, bi-monthly etc.) and the schedules by which Energy West/Cut Bank Gas are required to remit FICA, FUTA, and SUI taxes.