

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

IN THE MATTER of the Montana Public Service) REGULATORY DIVISION
Commission's Review of Rates to Recover)
NorthWestern Energy's Electricity Supply Costs) DOCKET NO. D2017.5.39

NOTICE OF STAFF ACTION

1. On July 7, 2017, the Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission") consolidated NorthWestern Energy's ("NorthWestern") filings in Docket D2016.7.52, concerning the utility's electricity supply tracker period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, with this docket.
2. On July 14, 2017, NorthWestern Energy filed its Power Costs and Credits Adjustment Mechanism ("PCCAM") Proposal with the Commission.
3. On July 18, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposal, Intervention Deadline, and Initial Procedural Schedule, and granted intervention to the Montana Consumer Counsel ("MCC") and WINData, LLC.
4. On September 21, 2017, the Commission issued Procedural Order 7563a setting forth the deadlines to be followed in this proceeding.
5. On November 7, 2017, the MCC submitted a Motion for Extension, requesting a two-week extension for intervenor testimony. The MCC proposed to extend most of the subsequent deadlines by two weeks, but keep the current hearing date. The Commission granted this request in a Notice of Staff Action ("NSA") issued on November 8, 2017, and amended the remaining schedule established in Procedural Order 7563a except the hearing date.
6. On December 12, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Additional Issues in this docket directing parties to consider alternative PCCAM designs, including a number of features incorporated within similar mechanisms across the region.
7. Through this NSA, the Commission vacates the remainder of the schedule amended in the NSA issued on November 8, 2017, except the deadline for data responses on intervenor testimony addressed in ¶ 5(f). The Commission establishes the following schedule to

address the additional issues identified on December 12, 2017, and amends the existing deadline in ¶ 5(f) for responses on intervenor testimony:

- (f) January 9, 2018: Final day for intervenors to respond to discovery on intervenor testimony.
- (g) February 7, 2018: Final day for NorthWestern to file additional issue testimony and rebuttal testimony on intervenor direct testimony. Final day for intervenors to file cross-intervenor response testimony on intervenor direct testimony.
- (h) February 21, 2018: Final day for discovery to NorthWestern on its additional issue testimony and its rebuttal testimony on intervenor direct testimony. Final day for discovery to intervenors on cross-intervenor response testimony on intervenor direct testimony.
- (i) March 7, 2018: Final day for NorthWestern to respond to discovery related to its additional issue testimony and its rebuttal testimony on intervenor direct testimony. Final day for intervenors to respond to discovery on cross-intervenor response testimony on intervenor direct testimony.
- (j) March 23, 2018: Final day for intervenors to file additional issues testimony.¹
- (k) April 6, 2018: Final day for discovery on intervenors additional issues testimony.
- (l) April 20, 2018: Final day for intervenors to respond to discovery related to their additional issue testimony.
- (m) April 30, 2018: Final day for NorthWestern to file rebuttal testimony on intervenor additional issue testimony, and for intervenors to file cross-intervenor response testimony on intervenor additional issue testimony.
- (n) May 7, 2018: Final day for discovery on NorthWestern rebuttal testimony on intervenor additional issue testimony and intervenor cross-intervenor additional issue testimony.
- (o) May 14, 2018: Final day for NorthWestern and intervenors to respond to discovery related to rebuttal and cross-intervenor additional issue testimony.
- (p) May 15, 2018: Final day to file prehearing memoranda including identification of data responses and exhibits to be moved into evidentiary record.
- (q) May 25, 2018: Final day to object to data responses and exhibits identified on May 15, 2018.

¹ The Commission acknowledges that the additional issues noticed in this proceeding implicate information raised originally by NorthWestern's application and also in its rebuttal testimony. As such, the Commission will take a permissive view of allowing intervenor testimony that relates to the additional issues, but which refers to prior rounds of NorthWestern testimony. NorthWestern will have an opportunity to rebut in its rebuttal testimony on additional issues anything that is submitted in the intervenor additional issues testimony.

(r) May 31, 2018: Hearing commences and continues from day-to-day as necessary.

8. The remainder of Procedural Order 7563a “remains effective unless [again] modified by the Commission or staff.” Procedural Order 7564a ¶ 3 (Sept. 21, 2017).

DONE AND DATED this 27th day of December 2017, by delegation to Commission staff as an Order of the Commission.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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