

Transmission Needs Driven by Public Policy

NorthWestern Energy (NWE) received no stakeholder submissions for transmission needs driven by Public Policy Requirements (PPRs) or Public Policy Considerations (PPCs) during Quarter 1 or Quarter 5 of the current transmission planning cycle (1/1/2016 to 12/31/2017). Please refer to NWE’s OATT Attachment K for definitions of capitalized terms herein and a description of how PPR and PPC are considered as part of the planning process. See the following link:

<http://www.oasis.oati.com/NWMT/NWMTdocs/Atth_K-Order_1000-Effective_10-1-13_Order_Date_3-24-15.pdf>

Public Policy Requirements

### Renewable Portfolio Requirements

Montana’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS), enacted in April 2005 as part of the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act, requires public utilities and competitive electricity suppliers serving 50 or more customers to obtain a percentage of their retail electricity sales from eligible renewable resources according to the following schedule:

* 5% for compliance years 2008-2009 (1/1/2008 – 12/31/2009)
* 10% for compliance years 2010-2014 (1/1/2010 – 12/31/2014)
* 15% for compliance year 2015 (and for each year thereafter)

Eligible renewable resources include wind; solar; geothermal; existing hydroelectric projects (10 megawatts or less); certain new hydroelectric projects (up to 15 megawatts installed at an existing reservoir or on an existing irrigation system that did not have hydroelectric generation as of April 16, 2009); landfill or farm-based methane gas; wastewater-treatment gas; low-emission, non-toxic biomass; and fuel cells where hydrogen is produced with renewable fuels. NorthWestern Energy currently meets the 15% renewable resources requirement.

## Public Policy Considerations and Transmission Needs Driven by Public Policy

NorthWestern Energy determined that the transmission needs driven by Public Policy Requirements or Public Policy Considerations are already incorporated into the Local Area Planning Process. There are no specific transmission needs, driven by Public Policy requirements or considerations that have been identified or need to be added to the local area planning process.