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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

IN THE MATTER OF NorthWestern) REGULATORY DIVISION
Energy's Application for Approval to)
Acquire Capacity Resources) DOCKET NO. 2021.02.022

Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule

NorthWestern Energy (“NorthWestern”) respectfully requests that the Montana Public Service Commission (“Commission”) immediately suspend the remaining deadlines in Procedural Order No. 7781y. Given the upcoming deadline for intervenors to file testimony, NorthWestern has attempted to contact counsel for all general intervenors to inform them of this motion.

NorthWestern appreciates the work done to date by the Commission, Commission staff, the Montana Consumer Counsel, and all of the general intervenors. However, the uncertainties and upheaval in the construction market and challenges to the supply chain due to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the need to make commercial decisions outside of the timelines of the approval docket to ensure that we maintain the most favorable supply and labor prices for this project. NorthWestern intends to withdraw its request that the Commission

approve the acquisition of the Laurel Generating Station. We are evaluating whether to proceed with the approval process of the Beartooth Battery Energy Storage Agreement. We anticipate filing a formal pleading as expeditiously as possible to clarify NorthWestern's intent.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of September 2021.

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY

By: Shannon M. Heim
Shannon M. Heim
Attorney for NorthWestern Energy

I hereby certify that NorthWestern Energy's Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule in Docket No. 2021.02.022, the Capacity Acquisition docket, has been e-filed with the Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission") and emailed to the email list below.

Date: September 21, 2021

/s/ Tracy Lowney Killoy
Administrative Assistant

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