

# Montana Consumer Counsel

## Status of Cases

May 21, 2026

### NORTHWESTERN ENERGY (NWE)

NWE Gas Tracker, Docket [2025.07.052](#).

- August gas tracker filed 7/15/25.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$3.105 to \$2.664
  - o Residential Rate from \$6.955 to \$7.775
- September gas tracker filed 8/15/25.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.664 to \$2.458
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.775 to \$7.570
- October gas tracker filed 9/16/25.
  - o Gas supply rate increase from \$2.458 to \$2.479
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.570 to \$7.591
- November gas tracker filed 10/15/25.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.479 to \$2.383
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.591 to \$7.494
- December gas tracker filed 11/14/25.
  - o Gas supply rate increase from \$2.383 to \$2.400
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.494 to \$7.511
- January gas tracker filed 12/16/25.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.362\* to \$2.217
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.653\* to \$7.508
- February gas tracker filed 1/16/26.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.217 to \$1.828
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.760\* to \$7.370
- March gas tracker **filed 2/16/26**.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$1.828 to \$1.501
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.370 to \$7.043

- April gas tracker **filed 3/16/26**.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$1.501 to \$1.291
  - o Residential Rate from \$7.043 to \$6.833
- May gas tracker **filed 4/15/26**.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$1.291 to \$0.832
  - o Residential Rate from \$6.833 to \$6.375
- June gas tracker **filed 5/14/26**.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$0.832 to \$1.407
  - o Residential Rate from \$6.375 to \$6.950

**EWM Monthly Gas Tracker**, Docket [2025.04.030](#).

- May gas tracker filed 4/8/25. Residential rate to \$5.64/Mcf.
- June gas tracker filed 5/8/25. Residential rate to \$5.48/Mcf.
- July gas tracker filed 6/10/25. Residential rate to \$5.28/Mcf.
- *NWE Motion to Assume Docket and Change Caption* filed 7/15/25.
- August gas tracker filed 7/16/25. Residential rate to \$4.86/Mcf.
- *Order 8026 for Substitution of Party* issued 7/30/25.
- September gas tracker filed 8/15/25. Residential rate to \$4.53/Mcf.
- October gas tracker filed 9/16/25. Residential rate to \$5.08/Mcf.
- November gas tracker filed 10/15/25. Residential rate to \$5.28/Mcf.
- December gas tracker filed 11/14/25. Residential rate to \$5.56/Mcf.
- January gas tracker filed 12/16/25. Residential rate to \$5.52/Mcf.
- February gas tracker filed 1/16/25. Residential rate to \$5.12/Mcf.
- March gas tracker **filed 2/16/26**. Residential rate to \$4.97/Mcf.

**NWE Annual PCCAM Application**, Docket [2025.09.063](#) filed 8/29/25.

NWE calculates a net deferred under-collection of \$5,448,705 associated with incremental electric supply costs during the 2024-2025 tracking period.

- *NWE Motion for Temporary Waiver of Tariff Provisions* filed 8/29/25 requesting full recovery through the PCCAM tracker mechanism of \$18M in fixed and variable O&M costs associated with the 222MW share of Colstrip Units 3 & 4 to be acquired from Avista on 1/1/26, including O&M costs associated with satisfying three new “long-term market sales contracts” with Big Horn Electric Cooperative (8MW, fixed price, 3-year term) and Energy Keepers (two contracts totaling 50MW, variable price, 1-year term); to exclude

fuel costs and sales revenues associated with these new market sales contracts, acknowledging sales revenues may not fully offset additional O&M costs (or any particular share of additional O&M costs), 100% of which would be recovered from retail customers through the PCCAM; to delay any crediting of sales revenues associated with these new market sales contracts until the next rate case, and only begin crediting sales revenues if they exceed \$18M.

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 9/30/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 10/15/25.
- *Procedural Order 8035* issued 10/30/25.
- [\*MCC Response to Motion for Temporary Waiver\*](#) filed 11/10/25 recommending a separate application and contested case docket (i.e., not PCCAM) to address recovery of costs associated with the additional share considering the three bilateral contracts committing 58MW to unregulated third parties for resale; opposing cross-subsidies and backstop recovery from retail customers.
- *Notice Setting Oral Argument* issued 12/2/25.
- Oral argument held 12/9/25.
- [\*MCC Direct Testimony of David Dismukes\*](#) filed 12/31/25 recommending a \$7M decrease to NWE's \$37M under collection based on the final PCCAM Base approved in *Final Order 7968t* and correct application of 90/10 sharing during the 2024-2025 tracking period; opposing the proposed waiver of PCCAM tariff provisions in lieu of a rate case or preapproval proceeding.
- *Notice of Additional Issue* issued 1/14/26 requesting parties address the pros and cons of 90/10 sharing and whether it provides an reasonable incentive to control costs compared to alternative ratemaking options.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8035b* issued 1/16/26.
- *Interim Order 8035c* issued 1/29/26.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8035b* issued 2/17/26.
- [\*MCC Additional Issues Testimony of David E. Dismukes\*](#) filed 4/10/26 supporting the proposal to eliminate 90-10 cost sharing of incremental supply costs to streamline the PCCAM, avoid the need to set a base revenue requirement for supply costs in rate cases, and simplify the mechanics of annual cost tracking.

#### **NWE PCCAM Quarterly Compliance Filings, Docket [2025.09.064](#).**

- Quarterly Q1 adjustment filed 8/29/25.
  - o Deferred electric supply rate increase from \$0.000854 to \$0.001382 per kWh.
- Quarterly Q2 adjustment filed 12/1/25.
  - o Deferred electric supply rate increase from \$0.001382 to \$0.006798 per kWh.
- Quarterly Q3 adjustment filed 3/20/26.

- Amended Q3 Adjustment [filed 3/27/26](#)
  - o Deferred electric supply rate increase from \$0.006798 to \$0.015843 per kWh.

**NWE Electric and Gas Rate Case, Docket [2024.05.053](#), filed 7/10/24.**

NWE requests an electric revenue requirement increase of \$69,391,520 and a gas revenue requirement increase of \$28,875,417, which would result in an increase of \$9.11 per month or 8.28% for a typical residential electric customer and an increase of \$8.84 per month or 17.04% for a typical residential gas customer.

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 7/23/24.
- *Notice of Commission Action* issued 8/7/24 finding NWE's Application inadequate under the Commission's minimum filing standards; giving NWE two weeks to make supplemental filings to comply and adjusting the filing date accordingly.
- *NWE Response and Supplemental Filing* filed 8/9/24.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 8/14/24.
- *Notice of Commission Action* issued 8/21/24 finding NWE's supplemental filings remedy all but one deficiency related to the justification of classification and allocation methods used; giving NWE two weeks to make supplemental filings to comply and adjusting the filing date accordingly.
- *NWE Response and Second Supplemental Filing* filed 8/23/24.
- *Notice of Filing Date and Intervention Deadline* issued 9/3/24 finding Application as twice supplemented to be adequate and establishing a filing date of 8/23/24.
- *Notice of Deadline for Interim Rate Adjustment Responses* issued 9/5/24.
- *Procedural Order 7968* issued 9/18/24; hearing set 4/22/25.
- *Amended Procedural Order 7968b* issued 10/31/24.
- *Interim Order 7968e* issued 11/26/24.
- *NWE Motion for Reconsideration of Interim Order 7968e* filed 12/6/24.
- *NWE Supplemental Direct Testimony and Exhibits* filed 12/9/24.
- *Notice of Additional Issues* issued 1/3/25.
- *Order on Reconsideration 7968h* issued 1/3/25.
- *MCC Direct Testimonies of [Ralph C. Smith](#), [John A. Krajewski](#), [David E. Dismukes](#), and [David J. Garrett](#)* filed 1/17/25.
- *NWE Rebuttal Testimony* filed 3/11/25.
- *[MCC Cross-Answering Testimony](#) of David E. Dismukes* filed 3/14/25.
- *Natural Gas Stipulation and Settlement Agreement* filed 3/24/25.
- *[MCC Gas Utility Settlement Testimony](#) of David E. Dismukes and Ralph C. Smith* filed 3/24/25

- *Notice of Public Hearing* issued 4/2/25.
- *Electric Stipulation and Settlement Agreement* filed 4/14/25.
- [MCC Partial Settlement Electric Utility Revenue Requirement](#) filed 04-15-25
- *Amended Procedural Order 7968n* issued 4/16/25.
- *Amended Procedural Order 7968o* issued 4/23/25; hearing set 6/9/25.
- *Notice of Public Hearing* issued 5/20/25.
- Hearing held 6/9-6/18/25.
- *Final Order 7968t* issued 12/24/25 approving all settlements, NWE's proposed PCCAM base of \$119,007,402, and MCC's proposed YCGS disallowance except the portion attributable to environmental litigation; setting an electric revenue requirement increase of \$61,229,423 based on an ROE of 9.65% and a gas revenue requirement increase of \$18,112,701 based on an ROE of 9.6%; and suspending the 90/10 sharing mechanism temporarily until design issues are addressed in another docket.

**NWE & Black Hills Corp. Application for Approval of Merger**, Docket [2025.10.078](#), filed 10/20/25.

NWE and Black Hills (“Joint Applicants”) propose that NorthWestern Group become a direct subsidiary of a new company called Bright Horizons through a 0.98% stock-for-stock transaction; that Black Hills shareholders will own 56% and NWE shareholders will own 44% of the combined company; that the board of directors consist of 6 Black Hills and 5 current NWE directors; that Brian Bird of NWE become CEO of the combined company; that NWE remain a direct subsidiary of NorthWestern Group, subject to existing ring-fencing provisions relating to NorthWestern Group.

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 11/3/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 11/17/25.
- *Procedural Order 8043* issued 12/10/25.
- [MCC Direct Testimony of Ralph C. Smith](#) filed 2/9/26 opposing approval of merger without specific conditions.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8043g* issued 3/5/26.
- [MCC Supplemental Direct Testimony of Ralph C. Smith](#) filed 3/13/26.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8043h* issued 3/19/26.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8043l* issued 4/21/26.
- *Notice of Public Hearing* issued 4/22/26.
- [Stipulation and Settlement Agreement of Joint Applicants, MCC and LCG](#) filed 4/22/26 agreeing to support approval of the merger subject to certain agreed-to conditions; including no recovery of transaction costs, goodwill, acquisition premium; transition costs

prior to closing (with no guarantee of transition costs post-closing); no recovery of any costs related to golden parachutes, changes-in-control, separation or severance, retention, or rebranding costs; no impact on accumulated deferred income taxes; preserving all existing ring-fencing conditions, commitments, and provisions applicable to NWE; requiring reporting of actual versus budgeted capital costs in 2026 and 2027 in NWE's first rate case post-merger; an updated cost allocation manual within 60 days of merger-related changes or first rate case; planning analyses of potential transmission and generation coordination opportunities that may improve cost reliability; a one-time, per-service bill credit of \$10M within 90 days of closing to residential customers.

- [\*Supplemental Direct Testimony in Support of Settlement of Ralph C. Smith\*](#) filed 4/22/26.
- *MCC Prehearing Memorandum* filed 5/1/26.
- Hearing held 5/12-5/15.

**Complaint and Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Supply Service to Data Centers,** Docket [2025.11.084](#), filed 11/17/25.

Big Sky 55+, Butte Watchdogs for Social and Environmental Justice, Climate Smart Montana, Helena Interfaith Climate Advocates, Honor The Earth, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Public Interest Research Group, and NW Energy Coalition request that the Commission prohibit NWE from providing electricity supply service to data center customers until the Commission determines there will be no adverse impacts on existing customers through a contested case proceeding; create a separate customer class for data center customers and allocate costs accordingly; and issue a declaratory ruling concluding that providing supply service without a Commission finding of no adverse impacts would violate 69-8-201, MCA.

- *Notice of Commission Action* directing NWE to answer Complaint issued 2/4/26.
- *NWE Motion to Dismiss* filed 2/24/26.
- *Complainants' Motion to Compel Answer* and 3/16/26.
- *Complainants Motion to Consolidate* with New Large Load Tariff Docket 2026.04.023 filed 5/13/26.

**NWE Application for New Large Load Tariff,** Docket [2026.04.023](#), filed 3/31/26.

NWE proposes a standardized process for evaluating and onboarding new large loads with a tiered approach for customers with a new or expanded supply service and average monthly demand of 5MW or more, including minimum contract lengths, minimum billing protections, security and performance requirements, early termination fees, and reliability protections.

**NWE Great Falls Gas Supply Tracker**, Docket [2026.03.017](#), filed 3/16/26.

- April gas tracker filed 3/16/26.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.1408 to \$2.0585 per Dkt
  - o Residential Rate to \$4.8478 per Dkt
- May gas tracker filed 4/15/26.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$2.0585 to \$1.5531
  - o Residential Rate to \$4.4022 per Dkt
- June gas tracker filed 5/14/26.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease from \$1.5531 to \$1.7798
  - o Residential Rate to \$4.6029

**NWE Cut Bank Gas Supply Tracker**, Docket [2026.03.018](#), filed 3/16/26.

- April gas tracker filed 3/16/26.
  - o Gas supply rate decrease of \$0.01859
  - o Residential Rate to \$0.62980 per CCF
- May gas tracker filed 5/14/26.
  - o Gas supply rate increase of \$0.00553 per CCF
  - o Residential Rate to \$0.75870 per CCF

**NWE 2026 Integrated Resources Plan**, Docket [2026.04.026](#), filed 4/27/26.

**NWE Townsend Propane Supply Tracker**, Docket [2026.05.027](#), filed 4/30/26.

NWE proposes per therm propane supply rates of \$0.97934 per therm from 6/1/25 to 9/30/25, \$1.27689 per therm from 10/1/25 to 3/31/26, and \$1.08334 per therm from 4/1/26 to 5/31/26.

# MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES COMPANY (MDU)

MDU Electric Tracker (Rate 58), Docket [2025.06.046](#), filed 6/17/25.

- July electric rate adjustment:
  - o Decrease of \$0.00490 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.01910 per kWh.
- *Interim Order 8020* issued 7/1/25.
- August electric rate adjustment filed 7/17/25:
  - o Decrease of \$0.00165 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.01745 per kWh.
- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 8/1/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 8/15/25.
- September electric rate adjustment filed 8/15/25:
  - o Increase of \$0.00449 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02194 per kWh.
- *Procedural Order 8020a* issued 8/22/24.
- October electric rate adjustment filed 9/17/25:
  - o Increase of \$0.00543 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02737 per kWh.
- November electric rate adjustment filed 10/17/25:
  - o Increase of \$0.00055 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02792 per kWh.
- *Default Order 8020b* issued 11/13/25.
- December electric rate adjustment filed 11/17/25:
  - o Decrease of \$0.00098 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02694 per kWh.
- January electric rate adjustment filed 12/17/25:
  - o Increase of \$0.0001 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02704 per kWh.
- February electric rate adjustment filed 1/16/26:
  - o Decrease of \$0.00014 per kWh secondary.
  - o Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02690 per kWh.
- March electric rate adjustment **filed 2/17/26**:

- Increase of \$0.00218 per kWh secondary.
- Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02908 per kWh.
- April electric rate adjustment **filed 3/17/26**:
  - Decrease of \$0.00047 per kWh secondary.
  - Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02861 per kWh.
- May electric rate adjustment **filed 4/17/26**:
  - Decrease of \$0.00365 per kWh secondary.
  - Total fuel and purchased power is \$0.02496 per kWh.

**MDU Gas Tracker Filings (Rate 88), Docket [2025.09.066](#).**

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 9/10/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 9/24/25.
- *Interim Order 7917* issued 9/25/25.
- *Procedural Order 7971a* issued 9/30/25.
- November gas tracker filed 10/8/25.
  - Increase of \$0.363/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - Total residential rate \$6.770/Dkt.
- December gas tracker filed 11/7/25 – no adjustment requested.
- *Default Order 8031b* issued 12/3/25.
- January gas tracker filed 12/8/25.
  - Increase of \$0.289/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - Total residential rate \$7.671\*/Dkt.
- February gas tracker filed 1/8/26.
  - Decrease of \$0.341/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - Total residential rate \$7.330/Dkt.
- March gas tracker **filed 2/6/26** – no adjustment requested.
- April gas tracker **filed 3/6/26**.
  - Decrease of \$0.367/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - Total residential rate \$6.963/Dkt.
- May gas tracker **filed 4/8/26**.
  - Increase of \$0.293/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - Total residential rate \$7.256/Dkt.

- June gas tracker [filed 5/8/26](#).
  - o Decrease of \$0.609/Dkt for residential and general service.
  - o Total residential rate \$6.647/Dkt.

**MDU Electric Rate Case**, Docket [2025.09.072](#), filed 9/30/25.

MDU requests a total revenue increase of \$14,827,013 based on an ROE of 10.8%, representing an overall percentage increase of 20%.

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 11/4/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 11/18/25.
- *Procedural Order 8039* issued 12/2/25.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8039a* issued 12/10/25.
- *Amended Procedural Order 8039b* issued 12/31/25.
- [MCC Direct Testimonies of Chris Ekrut and Michael W. Dupree](#) [filed 2/20/26](#) recommending a total revenue increase of \$2,286,581, ROE of 8.6%, and opposing classification of production plant assets as exclusively demand-related.
- [MCC and LCG Direct Testimony of David J. Garrett](#), [filed 2/20/26](#)
- *Amended Procedural Order 8039e* [issued 2/27/26](#).
- *Notice of Additional Issues* [issued 3/10/26](#).
- *Amended Procedural Order 8039f* [issued 2/27/26](#).
- *Interim Order 8039g* [issued 3/19/26](#).
- [MCC Cross-Intervenor Testimony Michael W. Deupree](#), [filed 4/10/26](#)
- *Amended Procedural Order 8039i* [issued 4/13/26](#).
- *Notice of Amended Additional Issues Schedule* [issued 4/17/26](#).
- *Order 8039j Granting Extension and Amending Procedural Order* [issued 5/8/26](#).

**MDU Application for Deferred Accounting Treatment**, Docket [2026.05.028](#), [filed 5/13/26](#).

MDU requests deferred accounting of accelerated depreciation and excess accumulated deferred income taxes as a result of the retirement of 7.5MW Glen Ullin Station 6.

## OTHER

**Rocky Mountain Operators ORM Application**, Docket [2025.06.045](#), filed 6/16/25.

RMO acquired the wastewater system on 8/1/24 and does not yet have 3 years of operational data, but requests to increase the monthly wastewater rate from \$80.00 to \$86.90 based on an ORM methodology.

**ABACO Energy Services, LLC Annual Propane Supply Tracker**, Docket [2025.09.065](#), filed 9/5/25.

- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 10/9/25.
- *MCC Notice of Intervention* filed 10/24/25.
- *Procedural Order 8045* issued 12/11/25.

**North Star Development ORM Water and Sewer Application**, Docket [2025.10.073](#), filed 9/30/25.

North Star proposes to increase rates to \$65.00 per month plus \$8.00 per 1,000 gallons over 7,000 gallons based on an ORM methodology.

- *North Star Amendment to Application for Rate Increase to Include Ancillary Charges* filed 10/10/25.
- *North Star Amended Application* filed 3/31/26.
- *North Star Second Amended Application* filed 4/30/26 proposing to increase fixed charge from \$55.93 to \$59.50 per month.

**Flathead Utility Company, Inc. ORM Application**, Docket [2026.01.010](#), filed 1/2/26.

Flathead proposes to increase monthly water rates 27-40% for four subdivisions based on an ORM methodology.

- *Flathead Amended Application* filed 2/5/26.
- *Flathead Application Amendment* filed 2/20/26.
- *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline* issued 2/27/26.
- *Procedural Order 8052* issued 3/26/26.
- *MCC Testimony of Paul R. Schulz* filed 5/8/26 recommending denial due to failure to adequately support ORM Application.