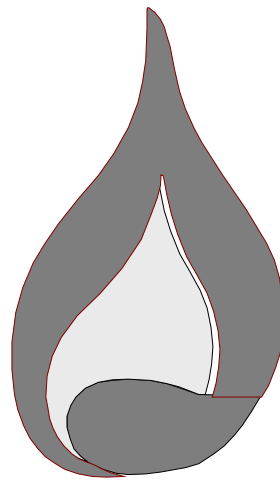


YEAR ENDING 2023

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
NorthWestern Energy

GAS UTILITY

Docket 2024.01.001



TO THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MONTANA
1701 PROSPECT AVENUE
P.O. BOX 202601
HELENA, MT 59620-2601

Gas Annual Report

Table of Contents

Description	Schedule
Identification	1
Board of Directors	2
Officers	3
Corporate Structure	4
Corporate Allocations	5
Affiliate Transactions - To the Utility	6
Affiliate Transactions - By the Utility	7
Montana Utility Income Statement	8
Montana Revenues	9
Montana Operation and Maintenance Expenses	10
Montana Taxes other Than Income	11
Payments for Services	12
Political Action Committees/Political Contributions	13
Pension Costs	14
Other Post Employment Benefits	15
Top Ten Montana Compensated Employees	16
Top Five Corporate Compensated Employees	17
Balance Sheet	18

continued on next page

Description	Schedule
Montana Plant In Service	19
Montana Depreciation Summary	20
Montana Materials and Supplies	21
Montana Regulatory Capital Structure	22
Statement of Cash Flows	23
Long Term Debt	24
Preferred Stock	25
Common Stock	26
Montana Earned Rate of Return	27
Montana Composite Statistics	28
Montana Customer Information	29
Montana Employee Counts	30
Montana Construction Budget	31
Transmission, Distribution and Storage Systems	32
Sources of Gas Supply	33
MT Conservation and Demand Side Mgmt Programs	34
Montana Consumption and Revenues	35
Natural Gas Universal System Benefits programs	36a
Montana Conservation and Demand Side Mgmt programs	36b

Sch. 1	IDENTIFICATION	
1	Legal Name of Respondent:	NorthWestern Corporation
2	Name Under Which Respondent Does Business:	NorthWestern Energy
3	Date Utility Service First Offered in Montana:	Electricity - Dec 12, 1912
4		Natural Gas - Jan 01, 1933
5		Propane - Oct 13, 1995
6	Person Responsible for Report:	Jeff B. Berzina
7	Telephone Number for Report Inquiries:	(406) 497-2759
8	Address for Correspondence Concerning Report:	11 East Park Street
9		Butte, MT 59701
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19	If direct control over respondent is held by another entity, provide below the name, address, means by which control is held and percent ownership of controlling entity:	
20	Respondent is a wholly-owned, direct subsidiary of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. At December 31, 2023, NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. owned 100% of the common stock of respondent.	

Sch. 2	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
	Director's Name & Address (City, State)	Remuneration
1		
2	See NorthWestern Corporation's Annual Report FERC Form 1 page 105 for our Corporate Board of Directors.	
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Sch. 3	OFFICERS		
	Title	Department Supervised	Name
1			
2	President and Chief Executive Officer	Executive	Brian Bird
3			
4	Vice President,	Legal Services	Shannon Heim
5	General Counsel and Federal	Corporate Secretary	
6	Government Affairs	Risk Management	
7		Contracts	
8		Federal Governmental Affairs	
9			
10	Vice President,	Regulatory Affairs	Cyndee Fang
11	Regulatory Affairs	DSM and Energy Efficiency	
12		Sustainability	
13		Governmental Affairs - Nebraska and South Dakota	
14			
15	Vice President,	Asset and Project Management	Bleau LaFave
16	Asset Management & Business Development	Business Development and Strategic Support	
17			
18	Vice President,	Distribution Operations - MT/SD/NE	Jason Merkel
19	Distribution	Construction	
20			
21	Vice President,	Transmission Planning, Engineering, Construction,	Michael Cashell
22	Transmission	and Operations	
23		Gas Transmission & Storage	
24		Substation Operations	
25		Transmission Policy, Services, and Operations	
26		Transmission Market Strategy	
27		Grid Real Time and Scada Operations	
28		FERC and NERC Compliance	
29		Support Services	
30			
31	Vice President,	Thermal and Wind Generation	John Hines
32	Supply and Montana Government Affairs	Hydro Operations	
33		Environmental and Lands Permitting & Compliance	
34		Long Term Resources	
35		Energy Supply Marketing Operations	
36		Montana Government Affairs	
37			
38		Brand, Advertising, and	Bobbi Schroepfel
39	Vice President,	Customer Communications	
40	Customer Care, Communications and	Customer Experience and Support	
41	Human Resources	Customer Interaction	
42		Community Connections	
43		Revenue Cycle Management	
44		Human Resources	
45		Safety/Health/Environmental Services	
46			
47	Chief Audit & Compliance Officer	Internal Audit	Michael Nieman
48		Enterprise Risk and Business Continuity	
49			
50	Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	Tax, Internal Audit and Compliance	Crystal Lail
51		Financial Planning & Analysis	
52		Controller and Treasury Functions	
53		Inventory Relations and Corporate Finance	
54		Flight Services	
55			
56	Vice President, Technology	Business Technology	Jeanne Vold
57		Customer Systems & Solutions	
58		Data & Analytics	
59		Operation Technology	
60		Security	
61			
	Reflects active officers as of December 31, 2023		

Sch. 4	CORPORATE STRUCTURE		
Subsidiary/Company Name	Line of Business	Earnings (000)	% of Total
Regulated Operations (Jurisdictional & Non-Jurisdictional)		\$ 190,369	98.06%
NorthWestern Corporation:			
Montana Utility Operations	Electric Utility Natural Gas Utility Natural Gas Pipeline (including Canadian Montana Pipeline Corp., Havre Pipeline Company, LLC Lodge Creek Pipelines, LLC and Willow Creek Gathering, LLC) Propane Utility		
South Dakota Utility Operations	Electric Utility Natural Gas Utility		
Nebraska Utility Operations	Natural Gas Utility		
Unregulated Operations		\$ 3,763	1.94%
Direct Subsidiaries:			
NorthWestern Services, LLC	Nonregulated natural gas marketing, property management		
Clark Fork and Blackfoot, LLC	Former Milltown hydroelectric facility		
Risk Partners Assurance, Ltd.	Captive insurance company		
NorthWestern Energy Solutions, Inc.	Non-regulated customer services		
Total Corporation		\$ 194,132	100.00%

CORPORATE ALLOCATIONS

	Departments Allocated	Description of Services	Allocation Method	\$ to MT EI & Gas Utilities	MT %	\$ to Other
1						
2	Executive Department	Includes the following departments: CEO and Board of Directors	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	4,957,856	77.87%	1,409,104
3						
4						
5						
6	Legal Department	Includes the following departments: Chief Legal and Risk Management	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	20,037,127	79.39%	5,201,808
7						
8						
9						
10	Regulatory Affairs	Includes the following departments: Regulatory Affairs MT, SD & NE Public and Regulatory Affairs and Regulatory Support	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	1,885,733	73.82%	668,657
11						
12						
13						
14	Finance	Includes the following departments: CFO, Treasury, FP&A Tax , Investor Relations, Corporate Aircraft, and Compensation & Benefits	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	17,730,875	79.84%	4,477,065
15						
16						
17						
18	Controller	Includes the following departments: Controller, Accounting Accounts Payable, Payroll, Financial Reporting & Regulatory Affairs Finance	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	\$5,321,177	80.01%	\$1,329,365
19						
20						
21						
22	Audit & Controls	Includes the following departments: Internal Audit and Enterprise Risk Management	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	1,034,150	79.00%	274,901
23						
24						
25						
26	Business Technology	Includes the following departments: Applications, Architecture, Governance	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	21,594,629	79.03%	5,728,518
27						
28						
29						
30	Distribution	Includes the following departments: Sioux Falls Facilities and Helena Building	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	80,620	65.80%	41,911
31						
32						
33						
34	Customer Care	Includes the following departments: Customer Care Combined, Customer Care SD&NE CC MT, CC - Assoc & Dispatch, Business Develop Human Resources, Print Services and Charitable Contributions	Overhead costs not charged directly are typically allocated based on a 3-factor formula consisting of gross plant, labor, and margin.	25,453,138	74.82%	8,567,935
35						
36						
37						
38						
39						
40	TOTAL			\$98,095,303	77.98%	\$27,699,263

Sch. 6	AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS - PRODUCTS & SERVICES PROVIDED TO UTILITY					
	Affiliate Name	Products & Services	Method to Determine Price	Charges to Utility	% of Total Affil. Rev.	Charges to MT Utility
1	Nonutility Subsidiaries					
2						
3						
4	Total Nonutility Subsidiaries			\$0		\$0
5	Total Nonutility Subsidiaries Revenues			\$0		
6						
7						
8	Utility Subsidiaries					
9						
10						
11	Total Utility Subsidiaries			\$0		\$0
12	Havre Pipeline Company, LLC	Natural gas gathering, transmission, & compression	Gathering rate based on cost, transmission & compression are at tariffed rates	2,608,256		
13						
14						
15	Total Utility Subsidiaries Revenues			\$2,608,256		
16	TOTAL AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS			\$0		\$0

Sch. 7	AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS - PRODUCTS & SERVICES PROVIDED BY UTILITY					
	Affiliate Name	Products & Services	Method to Determine Price	Charges to Affiliate	% of Total Affil. Exp.	Revenues to MT Utility
1	Nonutility Subsidiaries					
2						
3						
4						
5						
6	Total Nonutility Subsidiaries			\$0		\$0
7	Total Nonutility Subsidiaries Expenses			\$0		
8						
9						
10	Utility Subsidiaries					
11						
12						
13	Havre Pipeline Company, LLC	Administration Fee	Negotiated Contract Rate	500,400	13.4%	500,400
14	Havre Pipeline Company, LLC	Labor Cost	Actual Expense	1,283,172	34.4%	\$1,283,172
15						
16	Total Utility Subsidiaries			1,783,572		\$1,783,572
17	Total Utility Subsidiaries Expenses			\$3,733,451		
18	TOTAL AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS			\$1,783,572		\$1,783,572

Sch. 8	MONTANA UTILITY INCOME STATEMENT - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)					
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1						
2	400 Operating Revenues	\$ 375,747,350	\$ 127,117,071	\$ 248,630,279	\$ 263,714,659	-5.72%
3						
4	Total Operating Revenues	375,747,350	127,117,071	248,630,279	263,714,659	-5.72%
5						
6	Operating Expenses					
7						
8	401 Operation Expense	243,442,980	109,928,297	133,514,684	150,781,255	-11.45%
9	402 Maintenance Expense	8,848,386	1,615,914	7,232,472	7,081,855	2.13%
10	403 Depreciation Expense	29,678,727	5,654,978	24,023,749	21,163,929	13.51%
11	404-405 Amort. & Depletion of Gas Plant	6,260,081	264,277	5,995,804	5,464,958	9.71%
12	406 Amort. of Plant Acquisition Adj.	-	-	-	22	-100.00%
13	407.3 Regulatory Amortizations - Debit	30,083,275	4,123,784	25,959,491	14,135,054	83.65%
14	407.4 Regulatory Amortizations - Credit	(19,410,974)	(1,912,204)	(17,498,769)	(16,605,450)	-5.38%
15	408.1 Taxes Other Than Income Taxes	36,449,693	2,138,058	34,311,635	42,541,177	-19.34%
16	409.1 Income Taxes-Federal	(7,183,190)	(282,776)	(6,900,414)	6,046,927	-214.11%
17	-Other	(2,772,263)	(403,773)	(2,368,490)	2,112,238	-212.13%
18	410.1 Deferred Income Taxes-Dr.	81,799,417	12,775,563	69,023,854	25,309,867	172.72%
19	411.1 Deferred Income Taxes-Cr.	(77,780,820)	(14,298,386)	(63,482,434)	(30,426,392)	-108.64%
20	411.4 Investment Tax Credit Adj.	-	-	-	-	0.00%
21						
22	Total Operating Expenses	329,415,313	119,603,732	209,811,580	227,605,440	-7.82%
23	NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ 46,332,038	\$ 7,513,339	\$ 38,818,699	\$ 36,109,219	7.50%

This financial statement is presented on the basis of the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts. As such, in accordance with FERC requirements, subsidiaries are presented using the equity method of accounting. The amounts presented are consistent with the presentation in FERC Form 1, plus Canadian Montana Pipeline Corporation.

Sch. 9	MONTANA REVENUES - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)					
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1						
2	Core Distribution Business Units					
3	(DBUs)					
4	480 Residential	\$ 208,224,474	\$ 72,176,554	\$ 136,047,920	\$ 152,303,051	-10.67%
5	481 Commercial	121,697,078	\$ 47,983,832	73,713,246	79,267,287	-7.01%
6	481.1 Industrial Firm	1,391,696	\$ -	1,391,696	1,519,549	-8.41%
7	482 Public Authorities	1,016,662	\$ -	1,016,662	1,047,176	-2.91%
8	484 Interdepartmental Sales	664,785	\$ -	664,785	884,589	-24.85%
9	491.2 CNG Station	-	\$ -	-	-	-
10						
11	Total Sales to Core DBUs	332,994,694	120,160,386	212,834,308	235,021,652	-9.44%
12						
13	483 Sales for Resale	3,072,317	\$ -	3,072,317	1,326,341	131.64%
14						
15	Total Sales of Natural Gas	336,067,011	120,160,386	215,906,625	236,347,993	-8.65%
16						
17	496.1 Provision for Rate Refunds	-	\$ -	-	-	-
18						
19	Total Revenue Net of Rate Refunds	336,067,011	120,160,386	215,906,625	236,347,993	-8.65%
20						
21	489.1 Gathering	1,041,174	\$ -	1,041,174	768,069	0.00%
22	489.2 Transmission	35,989,631	\$ 6,465,311	29,524,320	24,740,608	19.34%
23		-	-	-	-	-
24	Total Revenues From Transportation	37,030,805	6,465,311	30,565,494	25,508,677	19.82%
25						
26	Miscellaneous Revenues	2,649,534	491,374	2,158,160	1,857,989	16.16%
27						
28	Total Other Operating Revenue	2,649,534	491,374	2,158,160	1,857,989	16.16%
29	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 375,747,350	\$ 127,117,071	\$ 248,630,279	\$ 263,714,659	-5.72%
30						
31						
32						
33						
34						
35						
36						

Sch. 10	MONTANA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)					
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1	Gas Raw Materials					
2	Gas Raw Materials-Operation					
3	728 Liquefied Petroleum Gas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
4	735 Miscellaneous Production Expenses	23.35	23	-	-	0.00%
5	Total Operation-Gas Raw Materials	23.35	23	-	-	0.00%
6						
7	Gas Raw Materials-Maintenance					
8	741 Structures & Improvements	-	-	-	-	0.00%
9	Total Maintenance-Gas Raw Materials	-	-	-	-	0.00%
10	Total Gas Raw Materials	23.35	23	-	-	0.00%
11	Production Expenses					
12						
13	Production & Gathering-Operation					
14	750 Supervision & Engineering	129,608.81	-	129,608.81	216,787	-40.21%
15	751 Maps & Records	-	-	-	-	-
16	752 Gas Wells Expenses	758,912.95	-	758,912.95	727,953	4.25%
17	753 Field Lines Expenses	8,050.44	-	8,050.44	15,171	-46.94%
18	754 Field Compressor Station Expense	3,018,121.99	-	3,018,121.99	3,488,497	-13.48%
19	755 Field Comp. Station Fuel & Power	(141,174.96)	-	(141,174.96)	(338,272)	58.27%
20	756 Field Meas. & Reg. Station Expense	128,941.95	-	128,941.95	90,030	43.22%
21	757 Dehydration Expense	15,650.03	-	15,650.03	9,259	69.03%
22	758 Gas Well Royalties	1,174,455.51	-	1,174,455.51	2,549,285	-53.93%
23	759 Other Expenses	577,794.03	-	577,794.03	490,690	17.75%
24	760 Rents	172,647.16	-	172,647.16	224,571	-23.12%
25	Total Oper.-Production & Gathering	5,843,007.91	-	5,843,007.91	7,473,971	-21.82%
26						
27	Production Maintenance					
28	762 Maint. of Gathering Structures	-	-	-	-	-
29	763 Maint. of Producing Gas Wells	-	-	-	-	-
30	764 Maint. of Field Lines	78,088.24	-	78,088.24	89,021	-12.28%
31	765 Maint. of Field Compressor Stations	111,847.26	-	111,847.26	159,086	-29.69%
32	766 Maint. of Field Meas. & Reg. Stations	9,498.29	-	9,498.29	7,105	33.68%
33	767 Maint. of Purification Equipment	8,439.74	-	8,439.74	28,380	-70.26%
34	769 Maint. of Other Equipment	948.12	-	948.12	283	235.02%
35	Total Maintenance - Production	208,821.65	-	208,821.65	283,875	-26.44%
36	TOTAL Natural Gas Production & Gathering	6,051,829.56	-	6,051,829.56	7,757,846	-21.99%
37						
38	Other Gas Supply Expense-Operation					
39	800 NG Wellhead Purchases	54,311,371.24	-	54,311,371.24	97,328,182	-44.20%
40	803 NG Transmission Line Purchases	5,471,252.65	-	5,471,252.65	4,804,538	13.88%
41	805 Other Gas Purchases	99,958,870.93	93,317,537	6,641,334.38	(3,303,844)	>300.00%
42	805 Purchased Gas Cost Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
43	805 Incremental Gas Cost Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
44	805 Deferred Gas Cost Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
45	806 Exchange Gas	-	-	-	-	-
46	807 Well Expenses-Purchased Gas	552,350.12	-	552,350.12	404,871	36.43%
47	807 Purch. Gas Meas. Stations-Oper.	-	-	-	-	-
48	807 Purch. Gas Meas. Stations-Maint.	-	-	-	-	-
49	807 Purch. Gas Calculations Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
50	808 Other Purchased Gas Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
51	808 Gas Withdrawn from Storage -Dr.	7,655,986.90	-	7,655,986.90	(6,688,970)	214.46%
52	809 Gas Delivered to Storage -Cr.	-	-	-	-	-
53	810 Gas Used-Comp. Station Fuel-Cr.	-	-	-	-	-
54	811 Gas Used-Products Extraction-Cr.	-	-	-	-	-
55	812 Gas Used-Other Utility Oper.-Cr.	-	-	-	-	-
56	813 Other Gas Supply Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
57	Total Other Gas Supply Expenses	167,949,831.84	93,317,537	74,632,295.29	92,544,777	-19.36%
58	Total Production Expenses	174,001,661.40	93,317,537	80,684,124.85	100,302,623	-19.56%

Sch. 10 MONTANA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)						
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1	Storage Expenses					
2						
3	Underground Storage-Operation					
4	814 Supervision & Engineering	157,979.45	-	157,979.45	168,462	-6.22%
5	815 Maps & Records	-	-	-	-	-
6	816 Wells	391,683.04	-	391,683.04	422,774	-7.35%
7	817 Lines	39,992.81	-	39,992.81	55,496	-27.94%
8	818 Compressor Station	505,089.66	-	505,089.66	596,546	-15.33%
9	819 Compressor Station Fuel & Power	-	-	-	-	-
10	820 Measuring & Regulating Station	21,263.96	-	21,263.96	21,925	-3.02%
11	821 Purification	68,384.20	-	68,384.20	45,606	49.95%
12	823 Gas Losses	-	-	-	-	-
13	824 Other Expenses	111,278.76	-	111,278.76	138,781	-19.82%
14	825 Storage Well Royalties	3,681.69	-	3,681.69	4,017	-8.35%
15	826 Rents	-	-	-	-	-
16	Total Operation-Underground Storage	1,299,353.57	-	1,299,353.57	1,453,607	-10.61%
17						
18	Underground Storage-Maintenance					
19	830 Supervision & Engineering	67,127.83	-	67,127.83	2,398	>300.00%
20	831 Structures & Improvements	198,764.65	-	198,764.65	230,397	-13.73%
21	832 Reservoirs & Wells	13,335.67	-	13,335.67	45,121	-70.44%
22	833 Lines	38,991.49	-	38,991.49	8,638	>300.00%
23	834 Compressor Station Equipment	76,755.81	-	76,755.81	194,023	-60.44%
24	835 Meas. & Reg. Station Equipment	6,728.26	-	6,728.26	8,129	-17.23%
25	836 Purification Equipment	24,523.21	-	24,523.21	10,631	130.68%
26	837 Other Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
27	Total Maintenance-Underground Storage	426,226.92	-	426,226.92	499,337	-14.64%
28	Total Underground Storage Expenses	1,725,580.49	-	1,725,580.49	1,952,944	-11.64%
29						
30	Transmission Expenses					
31	Transmission-Operation					
32	850 Supervision & Engineering	3,299,733.77	49,131	3,250,602.78	3,376,644	-3.73%
33	851 System Control & Load Dispatching	690,499.44	-	690,499.44	716,890	-3.68%
34	853 Compressor Station Labor & Expense	841,230.66	-	841,230.66	738,791	13.87%
35	855 Other Fuel & Power for Comp. Stat.	-	-	-	-	-
36	856 Mains	942,122.23	16,126	925,996.52	966,151	-4.16%
37	857 Measuring & Regulating Station	681,834.27	16	681,818.54	652,539	4.49%
38	858 Transmission & Comp.-By Others	-	-	-	-	-
39	859 Other Expenses	904,441.46	2,003	902,438.24	847,426	6.49%
40	860 Rents	-	-	-	-	-
41	Total Operation-Transmission	7,359,861.83	67,276	7,292,586.18	7,298,441	-0.08%
42	Transmission-Maintenance					
43	861 Supervision & Engineering	167,882.49	-	167,882.49	155,550	7.93%
44	862 Structures & Improvements	169,288.67	457	168,832.14	210,418	-19.76%
45	863 Mains	808,411.39	36	808,375.27	804,933	0.43%
46	864 Compressor Station Equipment	909,363.74	-	909,363.74	735,469	23.64%
47	865 Meas. & Reg. Station Equipment	232,060.69	1,616	230,444.89	271,354	-15.08%
48	867 Other Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
49	Total Maintenance-Transmission	2,287,006.98	2,108	2,284,898.53	2,177,724	4.92%
50	Total Transmission Expenses	9,646,868.81	69,384	9,577,484.71	9,476,165	1.07%

Sch. 10	MONTANA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)					
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1	Distribution Expenses					
2	Distribution-Operation					
3	870 Supervision & Engineering	2,229,424.21	770,109	1,459,315.44	1,346,874	8.35%
4	871 Load Dispatching	25,115.63	25,116	-	-	-
5	872 Compressor Station Labor & Expense	-	-	-	-	-
6	873 Compressor Station Fuel and Power	-	-	-	-	-
7	874 Mains and Services	6,567,039.20	3,056,603	3,510,436.13	3,285,621	6.84%
8	875 Meas. & Reg. Station-General	308,860.69	171,163	137,697.54	151,277	-8.98%
9	876 Meas. & Reg. Station-Industrial	-	-	-	-	-
10	877 Meas. & Reg. Station-City Gate	112,343.00	103,928	8,414.64	35,528	-76.32%
11	878 Meter & House Regulator	1,527,359.39	540,747	986,612.11	904,763	9.05%
12	879 Customer Installations	1,534,699.44	341,117	1,193,582.04	1,180,976	1.07%
13	880 Other Expenses	747,790.03	208,039	539,750.86	651,217	-17.12%
14	881 Rents	4,023.75	-	4,023.75	5,134	-21.63%
15	Total Operation-Distribution	13,056,655.34	5,216,823	7,839,832.51	7,561,390	3.68%
16	Distribution-Maintenance					
17	885 Supervision & Engineering	977,649.30	264,155	713,494.69	730,788	-2.37%
18	886 Structures & Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
19	887 Mains	867,218.68	379,570	487,648.46	375,246	29.95%
20	889 Meas. & Reg. Station Exp.-General	128,739.60	111,313	17,426.23	36,688	-52.50%
21	890 Meas. & Reg. Station Exp.-Industrial	-	-	-	-	-
22	891 Meas. & Reg. Station Exp.-City Gate	51,222.08	51,222	-	-	-
23	892 Services	552,115.10	196,609	355,505.78	284,553	24.93%
24	893 Meters & House Regulators	1,298,648.22	306,725	991,922.96	924,492	7.29%
25	894 Other Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
26	Total Maintenance-Distribution	3,875,592.98	1,309,595	2,565,998.12	2,351,767	9.11%
27	Total Distribution Expenses	16,932,248.32	6,526,418	10,405,830.63	9,913,157	4.97%
28	Customer Accounts Expenses					
29	Customer Accounts-Operation					
30	901 Supervision	-	-	-	-	-
31	902 Meter Reading	665,220.43	157,988	507,232.45	516,979	-1.89%
32	903 Customer Records & Collection	3,374,353.44	962,007	2,412,346.52	2,378,308	1.43%
33	904 Uncollectible Accounts	879,601.57	300,370	579,231.22	358,424	61.61%
34	905 Miscellaneous Customer Accounts	38,419.25	38,419	-	(8)	100.00%
35	Total Customer Accounts Expenses	4,957,594.69	1,458,785	3,498,810.19	3,253,703	7.53%
36	Customer Service & Information Expenses					
37	Customer Service-Operation					
38	907 Supervision	-	-	-	-	-
39	908 Customer Assistance	1,607,201.05	743,430	863,771.06	838,810	2.98%
40	909 Inform. & Instructional Advertising	499,567.54	106,635	392,932.27	377,195	4.17%
41	910 Misc. Customer Service & Inform.	-	-	-	-	-
42	Total Customer Service & Information Exp.	2,106,768.59	850,065	1,256,703.33	1,216,005	3.35%
43						
44						
45	Sales Expenses					
46	Sales-Operation					
47	911 Supervision	-	-	-	-	-
48	912 Demonstrating & Selling	-	-	-	-	-
49	913 Advertising	323,162.69	119,106	204,057.02	389,259	-47.58%
50	916 Miscellaneous Sales	-	-	-	-	-
51	Total Sales Expenses	323,162.69	119,106	204,057.02	389,259	-47.58%

Sch. 10 MONTANA OPERATION & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)						
	Account Number & Title	This Year Cons. Utility	Non Jurisdictional Adjustments	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1	Administrative & General Expenses					
2	Admin. & General - Operation					
3	920 Administrative & General Salaries	12,008,972.58	2,972,972	9,036,000.09	9,320,185	-3.05%
4	921 Office Supplies & Expenses	6,117,601.35	1,656,612	4,460,989.06	4,471,531	-0.24%
5	922 Administrative Exp. Transferred-Cr.	(3,275,084.77)	(933,103)	(2,341,982.13)	(2,413,294)	2.95%
6	923 Outside Services Employed	2,240,721.73	714,412	1,526,309.70	1,455,313	4.88%
7	924 Property Insurance	874,398.20	144,964	729,433.95	306,593	9.69%
8	925 Legal & Claim Department	4,791,709.38	1,095,552	3,696,157.78	3,803,998	7.50%
9	926 Employee Pensions & Benefits	11,169,931.39	2,687,235	8,482,696.62	7,497,050	13.15%
10	928 Regulatory Commission Expenses	190,234.82	-	190,234.82	76,608	148.32%
11	930 Miscellaneous General Expenses	6,043,981.68	454,515	5,589,466.32	4,670,828	19.67%
12	931 Rents	384,254.20	105,523	278,731.34	401,290	-30.54%
13	Total Operation-Admin. & General	40,546,720.56	8,898,683	31,648,037.55	29,590,102	6.95%
14	Admin. & General - Maintenance					
15	935 General Plant	2,050,737.96	304,211	1,746,526.78	1,769,152	-1.28%
16	Total Admin. & General Expenses	42,597,458.52	9,202,894	33,394,564.33	31,359,254	6.49%
17	TOTAL OPER. & MAINT. EXPENSES	252,291,366.86	111,544,211	140,747,155.55	\$ 157,863,110	-10.84%
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						

Sch. 11	MONTANA TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)			
	Description	This Year	Last Year	% Change
1				
2	Taxes associated with Payroll/Labor	2,036,073	1,981,457	2.76%
3	Property Taxes	30,149,636	37,681,843	-19.99%
4	Crow Tribe RR and Utility Tax	124,836	124,836	0.00%
5	Blackfoot Possessory Tax	348,409	367,540	-5.21%
6	City Tax	0	0	-
7	Consumer Counsel	193,110	217,096	-11.05%
8	Public Service Commission	886,175	848,472	4.44%
9	Heavy Highway Use	586	5,043	-88.38%
10	Vehicle Use Taxes	0	0	-
11	Gas Production Taxes	499,523	1,241,439	-59.76%
12	Delaware Franchise Tax	55,061	55,060	0.00%
13				
14				
15				
16	<u>Canadian Taxes</u>			
17	Ad Valorem	18,227	18,391	-0.89%
18				
19				
20				
21				
22	TOTAL TAXES OTHER THAN INCOME	\$34,311,635	\$42,541,177	-19.34%

Sch. 12	PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES TO PERSONS OTHER THAN EMPLOYEES 1/		
	Name of Recipient	Nature of Service	Total
1	A EXCAVATION	Excavation Contractor	318,297
2	AFFCO INC	Hydro Construction Services	1,698,287
3	AMERICAN INNOVATIONS INC	Software Support Services	102,519
4	ANDRITZ HYDRO CORP	Hydro Upgrade Services	4,245,723
5	ARCADIS US INC	Engineering Services	349,549
6	ARCOS LLC	Call-out Services	163,709
7	ASCEND ANALYTICS LLC	Hydro Expert Analysis	403,149
8	ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT LLC	Tree Trimming	5,875,054
9	ASSOCIATED UNDERWATER SERVICE	Inspection Services	244,143
10	AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS INC	Fleet Management	4,269,074
11	AVEVA SOFTWARE, LLC	Computer Support Services	221,569
12	BART ENGINEERING COMPANY	Engineering Services	568,520
13	BASELOAD POWER GENERATION PARTS Total	Engineering Services	350,129
14	BEACON COMMUNICATIONS LLC	Software Maintenance	480,851
15	BIG HORN WIRELINE, LLC Total	Storage	180,135
16	BILLINGS FLYING SERVICE, INC.	Powerline Services	87,779
17	BISON ENGINEERING INC	Engineering Services	102,383
18	BLUE MOUNTAIN DIRECTIONAL DRI	Boring Services	2,779,111
19	BRY ENTERPRISE Total	Road Bore Services	110,816
20	BURK EXCAVATION AND UTILITIES	Construction	2,966,219
21	CATERPILLAR POWER GENERATION	Generation Services	46,387,003
22	CENTRON SERVICES INC	Customer Collection service	90,233
23	CHARLOTTE ST. ADVISORS, LLC Total	Tactical Planning Prof Services	788,153
24	CHAZNLIN, LLC Total	Heavy Haul Services	1,239,313
25	CN UTILITY CONSULTING INC	Utility Consulting Services	634,360
26	CONTINENTAL STEEL WORKS	Fabrication Services	421,892
27	CRIST, KROGH, BUTLER & NORD L	Legal Services	352,616
28	CROWLEY FLECK PLLP	Legal Services	203,778
29	CTA INC.	Energy Conservation Consultants	650,194
30	DAVEY TREE SURGERY COMPANY	Tree Trimming	4,611,717
31	DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP	Audit Services	449,181
32	DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVIC	Weatherization Program Services	1,815,351
33	DIETZEL ENTERPRISES INC	Construction	420,288
34	DJ&A P C CONSULTING ENGINEER	Surveying Services	235,949
35	DNV ENERGY SERVICES USA INC Total	Commercial Lighting program	5,002,063
36	DOBLE ENGINEERING CO	Maintenance Service	88,223
37	DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP	Legal Services	796,708
38	DOWL HKM	Geotechnical Services	171,525
39	E SOURCE COMPANIES LLC	Consulting Services	92,228
40	ELM LOCATING & UTILITY SERVIC	Locating Services and Excavation Notifications	4,165,345
41	ENERGY CONTRACT SERVICES LLC	Inspection Services	2,272,846
42	ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA	USBC Services	677,083
43	EVERGREEN CAISSONS INC	Construction	128,380
44	FAGEN, INC	Construction	2,500,000
45	FITCH RATINGS INC Total	Annual Credit Ratings	114,454
46	FLYNN WRIGHT INC	Advertising Services	1,870,861
47	FOOTHILLS RIG SERVICE	Well Services	87,600
48	GARTNER INC	Information Technology Consulting	192,078
49	GE ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC Total	E-Terra Source Upgrade Assist	499,427
50	GEI CONSULTANTS INC	Environmental Consultants	560,709
51	GENERAL ELECTRIC INTERNATIONA	Plant Operator Services	3,032,717
52	GEOSPATIAL INNOVATIONS INC	GSI Services & Maintenance	179,918
53	GREGG ENGINEERING	Informational Technology Simulation	108,295
54	GUY TABACCO CONSTRUCTION	Construction	166,917
55	H & H ASPHALT & MAINTENANCE L	Asphalt Services	250,268
56	H & H CONTRACTING INC	Concrete and Asphalt Services	397,140
57	H2E INC	Engineering Services	827,639
58	HDR ENGINEERING INC	Engineering Services	5,681,072
59	HEATH CONSULTANTS INC	Gas Leak Surveys	750,837

Sch. 12A	PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES TO PERSONS OTHER THAN EMPLOYEES 1/		
	Name of Recipient	Nature of Service	
60	HIGHMARK MEDIA	Safety Training	116,400
61	HITACHI ENERGY USA INC Total	Engineering Consulting	395,671
62	INTEC SERVICES INC	Pole Inspection Services	2,069,372
63	ITRON INC	Meter Installation	16,806,206
64	J D POWER AND ASSOCIATES	Energy Study	92,030
65	J2 BUSINESS PRODUCTS	Copier Maintenance	334,786
66	JARES FENCE COMPANY INC	Fence Materials/Installation	220,133
67	JEFFERY CONTRACTING LLC	Construction	498,514
68	K & K ROOFING AND EXCAVATION INC Total	Roofing and Insulation	108,586
69	KARV LLC	Boring Services	99,551
70	KELLERMEYER BERGENSONS SERVICES LLC Total	Cleaning Services	199,538
71	KM CONSTRUCTION CO INC	Construction	182,512
72	KNIFE RIVER	Construction	84,749
73	LEARJET INC	Repair Services	255,104
74	LOCKMER PLUMBING HEATING &	Gas Meter Relocations	374,669
75	M&D CONSTRUCTION INC	Construction	222,291
76	MCMILLEN LLC	Design Services	7,236,252
77	MERCER HUMAN RESOURCE CONSULT	HR Consulting	171,621
78	MERKEL ENGINEERING INC	Consulting Services	5,612,050
79	MICHAELS FENCE & SUPPLY CO	Installation Services	218,309
80	MICHELS CORPORATION	Construction	16,279,933
81	MIDCON UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTI	Construction	675,629
82	MINUTEMAN AVIATION INC.	Helicopter Charter Services	296,727
83	MONTANA FISH WILDLIFE & PARKS	Wildlife Monitoring Services	755,038
84	MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE	Debt Rating Services	108,495
85	MORRISON MAIERLE INC	Engineering Services	417,583
86	MOUNTAIN POWER CONSTRUCTION C	Electric Construction and Maintenance	21,991,025
87	MOUNTAIN WEST HOLDING COMPANY	Traffic Safety Services	628,650
88	NATIONAL CENTER FOR APPROPRIA	Conservation Program Consultants	321,800
89	NORTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Energy Services	1,282,896
90	OPEN ACCESS TECHNOLOGY INT'L	Software Support Services	764,128
91	PAR ELECTRIC CONTRACTORS INC	Electric Construction and Maintenance	5,178,084
92	PINNACLE RESEARCH & CONSULTING	Consulting Services	329,414
93	POTEET CONSTRUCTION	Traffic Safety Services	147,721
94	POTELCO INC	Electric Construction and Maintenance	9,889,621
95	POWER SETTLEMENTS CONSULTING &	Consulting Services	206,259
96	POWERS HEATING LLC	Meter Installation	106,407
97	PRO PIPE CORPORATION	Welding Services	467,744
98	QUANTA UTILITY ENGINEERING	Engineering Services	9,263,299
99	RIVER DESIGN GROUP INC	Engineering Services	195,076
100	ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONTRACTORS INC	Electric Construction and Maintenance	25,311,577
101	ROD TABBERT CONSTRUCTION INC	Construction	248,855
102	ROSEN USA INC	Inspection Services	1,583,183
103	SCENIC CITY ENTERPRISES INC	Construction	143,906
104	SCHNABEL ENGINEERING LLC	Consulting Services	519,369
105	SHAW PIPELINE SERVICES INC Total	Pipeline Service Reroute	1,280,998
106	SIDEWINDERS LLC	Generator Repair Services	2,127,551
107	SOLAR TURBINES INC Total	Commissioning New Controls	506,225
108	SPHERION STAFFING	Temporary Labor	109,299
109	STANDARD & POOR'S FINANCIAL S	Debt Rating Services	128,000
110	STATE LINE CONTRACTORS INC	Electric Construction and Maintenance	1,006,728
111	STINSON LEONARD STREET LLP	Legal Services	449,910
112	SULLIVAN BROS. CONSTRUCTION INC Total	Boring Services	188,809
113	SUPERIOR CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC	Construction	84,904
114	TAYLOR SERVICES INC Total	Excavator Services	108,751
115	TBC CONSTRUCTION LLC Total	Pipeline Service Reroute	1,408,036
116	TERRA REMOTE SENSING (USA) INC	Surveying Services	527,308
117	THE MOSAIC COMPANY	Training	814,217
118	THOMPSON HINE LLP	Benefits Audit Services	139,231
119	TIMBERLINE SECURITY & SERVICES	Security Services	368,099
120	TLC SEPTIC SERVICE	Excavation Contractor	276,731
121	TRADEMARK ELECTRIC INC	Construction	770,987
122	TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP	Legal Services	253,982
123	ULTEIG ENGINEERS INC	Project Manager Services	158,050

Sch. 13	POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES / POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS			
	Description	Total Company	Montana	% Montana
1				
2				
3	There are three employee political action committees			
4	(PAC)s:			
5				
6	a. NorthWestern Energy Montana Employee PAC for			
7	Montana employees;			
8				
9	b. Employees of NorthWestern Corporation			
10	(NorthWestern Energy) PAC for South Dakota			
11	employees;			
12				
13	c. NorthWestern Public Service Employees PAC for			
14	Nebraska employees.			
15				
16				
17	All of the money contributed by members is			
18	dedicated to support political candidates, state and			
19	local political party organizations, and ballot issues.			
20	No company funds may be spent in support of a			
21	political candidate. Nominal administrative costs			
22	for such things as duplicating, postage, and			
23	meeting expenses are paid by the company as			
24	provided by law. These costs are charged to			
25	shareholder expense.			
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				
32				
33				
34				
35				
36				
37				
38				
39				
40	TOTAL Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%

Sch. 14	Pension Costs 1/		
1	Plan Name: NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan		
2	Defined Benefit Plan? Yes	Defined Contribution Plan? No	
3	Actuarial Cost Method? Projected Unit Credit	IRS Code: _____	
4	Annual Contribution by Employer: Variable	Is the Plan Over Funded? No	
5			
	Item	Current Year	Last Year
			% Change
6	Change in Benefit Obligation		
7	Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 474,947,258	\$ 636,271,675
8	Service cost	5,104,682	9,469,971
9	Interest cost	23,535,206	17,240,996
10	Plan participants' contributions	-	-
11	Amendments	-	-
12	Actuarial (gain) loss	2,235,431	(163,649,996)
13	Settlements	(51,942,557)	-
14	Benefits paid	(26,554,142)	(24,385,388)
15	Benefit obligation at end of year	\$ 427,325,878	\$ 474,947,258
16	Change in Plan Assets		
17	Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$ 388,693,381	\$ 537,871,174
18	Actual return on plan assets	29,936,791	(131,792,405)
19	Settlements	(51,942,557)	-
20	Employer contribution	8,000,000	7,000,000
21	Plan participants' contributions	-	-
22	Benefits paid	(26,554,142)	(24,385,388)
23	Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$ 348,133,473	\$ 388,693,381
24	Funded Status	\$ (79,192,405)	\$ (86,253,877)
26	Unrecognized net actuarial gain (loss)	-	-
27	Unrecognized prior service cost	-	-
29	Prepaid (accrued) benefit cost	\$ (79,192,405)	\$ (86,253,877)
30	Weighted-average Assumptions as of Year End		
31	Discount rate	5.00%	5.20%
32	Expected return on plan assets	6.44%	4.26%
33	Rate of compensation increase	4.00% Union & 4.00% Non-Union	4.00% Union & 4.00% Non-Union
			0.00%
34	Components of Net Periodic Benefit Costs		
35	Service cost	\$ 5,104,682	\$ 9,469,971
36	Interest cost	23,535,206	17,240,996
37	Expected return on plan assets	(23,448,483)	(22,400,489)
38	Settlement (gain) loss recognized	4,394,595	-
39	Recognized net actuarial gain	228,222	382,939
40	Net periodic benefit cost (SEC Basis)	\$ 9,814,222	\$ 4,693,417
41	Montana Intrastate Costs: (MPSC Regulatory Basis)		
42	Pension Costs	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 7,000,000
43	Pension Costs Capitalized	\$ 3,791,146	\$ 2,032,818
44	Accumulated Pension Asset (Liability) at Year End	\$ (79,192,405)	\$ (86,253,877)
45	Number of Company Employees:		
46	Covered by the Plan 2/	1,355	1,367
47	Not Covered by the Plan 2/	1,073	1,009
48	Active	387	451
49	Retired	685	611
50	Deferred Vested Terminated 2/	283	305
	1/ NorthWestern Corporation has a separate pension plan covering South Dakota and Nebraska employees that is not reflected above.		
	2/This plan was closed to new entrants effective 10/03/08.		

Sch. 14a	Pension Costs 1/			
1	Plan Name: NorthWestern Energy 401k Retirement Savings Plan			
2	Defined Benefit Plan? No	Defined Contribution Plan? Yes		
3	Actuarial Cost Method? N/A	IRS Code: 401(k)		
4	Annual Contribution by Employer: Variable	Is the Plan Over Funded? N/A		
5				
	Item	Current Year	Last Year	% Change
6	Change in Benefit Obligation			
7	Benefit obligation at beginning of year			0.00%
8	Service cost			0.00%
9	Interest cost			0.00%
10	Plan participants' contributions	Not Applicable		
11	Amendments			0.00%
12	Actuarial loss			0.00%
13	Acquisition			0.00%
14	Benefits paid			0.00%
15	Benefit obligation at end of year	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
16	Change in Plan Assets			
17	Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year			-
18	Actual return on plan assets			0.00%
19	Acquisition			0.00%
20	Employer contribution 2/	\$ 13,211,496	\$ 12,323,206	7.21%
21	Plan participants' contributions			0.00%
22	Benefits paid			0.00%
23	Fair value of plan assets at end of year 2/			-
24	Funded Status	Not Applicable		
25	Unrecognized net actuarial loss			0.00%
26	Unrecognized prior service cost			0.00%
27	Prepaid (accrued) benefit cost	\$ -	\$ -	0
28				
29	Weighted-average Assumptions as of Year End	Not Applicable		
30	Discount rate			0.00%
31	Expected return on plan assets			0.00%
32	Rate of compensation increase			0.00%
33				
34	Components of Net Periodic Benefit Costs	Not Applicable		
35	Service cost			0.00%
36	Interest cost			0.00%
37	Expected return on plan assets			0.00%
38	Amortization of prior service cost			0.00%
39	Recognized net actuarial loss			0.00%
40	Net periodic benefit cost (SEC Basis)	\$ -	\$ -	0
41				
42	Montana Intrastate Costs: (MPSC Regulatory Basis)			
43	401(k) Plan Defined Contribution Costs	\$ 10,351,128	\$ 9,564,174	8.23%
44	401(k) Plan Defined Contribution Costs Capitalized	\$ 2,626,496	\$ 2,784,910	-5.69%
45	Accumulated Pension Asset (Liability) at Year End	Not Applicable		
46	Number of Company Employees:	3/	3/	
47	Covered by the Plan - Eligible	1,571	1,529	2.75%
48	Not Covered by the Plan		0	0.00%
49	Active - Participating	1,565	1,516	3.23%
50	Retired		0	0.00%
51	Vested Former Employees, Retirees and Active-Noncontributing	424	397	6.80%
52				
	2/ This plan covers all NorthWestern Corporation employees.			
	3/ Represents total company 401(k) plan participants.			

Sch. 15	Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEBS)			
	Item	Current Year	Last Year	% Change
1	Regulatory Treatment:			
2	Commission authorized - most recent			
3	Docket number: D2018.2.12			
4	Order number: 7604U			
5	Amount recovered through rates			
6	Weighted-average Assumptions as of Year End	1/	2/	
7	Discount rate	4.90%	5.20%	-5.77%
8	Expected return on plan assets	5.62%	4.23%	32.86%
9	Medical Cost Inflation Rate	3/		
10	Actuarial Cost Method	Projected Unit Credit Actuarial, Cost Method Allocated from the Date of Hire to Full Eligibility Date		
11	Rate of compensation increase	4.00% Union & 4.00% Non-Union	4.00% Union & 4.00% Non-Union	
12	List each method used to fund OPEBs (ie: VEBA, 401(h)) and if tax advantaged:			
13	Union Employees - VEBA - Yes, tax advantaged			
14	Non-Union Employees - 401(h) - Yes, tax advantaged			
15	Describe any Changes to the Benefit Plan:			
16	Bargaining employees of the Hydro generation facility are first reflected in the the determination of expense for the			
	1/ Obtained from NorthWestern Energy-Montana's 2023 FASB 106 Valuation. Assumptions and data are as of December 31, 2023. 2/ Obtained from NorthWestern Energy-Montana's 2022 FASB 106 Valuation. Assumptions and data are as of December 31, 2022. 3/ First Year, Ultimate, Years to Reach Ultimate.			

Sch. 15a	Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEBS) (continued)			
	Item	Current Year	Last Year	% Change
1	Number of Company Employees:			
2	Covered by the Plan			0.00%
3	Not Covered by the Plan			0.00%
4	Active			0.00%
5	Retired			0.00%
6	Spouses/Dependants covered by the Plan			0.00%
7	Montana 4/			
8	Change in Benefit Obligation			
9	Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$12,070,609	\$14,290,006	7.72%
10	Service cost	272,534	\$307,609	11.93%
11	Interest Cost	553,883	\$313,259	-35.92%
12	Plan participants' contributions	1,383,742	\$1,372,626	13.40%
13	Amendments	-	\$0	-
14	Actuarial loss/(gain)	(820,734)	(\$656,282)	-77.30%
15	Acquisition	-	\$0	-
16	Benefits paid	(2,861,901)	(\$3,556,609)	-22.57%
17	Benefit obligation at end of year	\$10,598,133	\$12,070,609	-9.39%
18	Change in Plan Assets			
19	Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year	\$20,055,071	\$25,289,024	7.52%
20	Actual return on plan assets	3,334,030	(4,097,998)	23.00%
21	Acquisition	-	-	-
22	Employer contribution	398,221	1,048,028	50.78%
23	Plan participants' contributions	1,383,742	1,372,626	13.40%
24	Benefits paid	(2,861,901)	(3,556,609)	-22.57%
25	Fair value of plan assets at end of year	\$22,309,163	\$20,055,071	9.50%
26	Funded Status	\$11,711,030	\$7,984,462	50.19%
27	Unrecognized net transition (asset)/obligation	-	-	-
28	Unrecognized net actuarial loss/(gain)	-	-	-
29	Unrecognized prior service cost	-	-	-
30	Prepaid (accrued) benefit cost	\$11,711,030	\$7,984,462	50.19%
31	Components of Net Periodic Benefit Costs			
32	Service cost	\$272,534	\$307,609	11.93%
33	Interest cost	553,883	313,259	-35.92%
34	Expected return on plan assets	(1,096,381)	(1,046,911)	6.44%
35	Amortization of transitional (asset)/obligation	-	-	-
36	Amortization of prior service cost	116,071	(1,986,418)	2.28%
37	Recognized net actuarial loss/(gain)	79,270	-	-
38	Net periodic benefit cost	(\$74,623)	(\$2,412,461)	-0.39%
39	Accumulated Post Retirement Benefit Obligation			
40	Amount Funded through VEBA	\$ -	\$ -	-
41	Amount Funded through 401(h)	-	-	-
42	Amount Funded through other - Company funds	398,221	1,048,028	50.78%
43	TOTAL	\$398,221	\$1,048,028	50.78%
44	Amount that was tax deductible - VEBA	\$ -	\$ -	-
45	Amount that was tax deductible - 401(h)	-	-	-
46	Amount that was tax deductible - Other	475,268	\$ (2,120,027)	-11.47%
47	TOTAL	\$475,268	(\$2,120,027)	-11.47%
48	Montana Intrastate Costs:	-		
49	Pension Costs	\$475,268	(\$2,120,027)	-11.47%
50	Pension Costs Capitalized	\$120,833	(\$622,388)	-11.66%
51	Accumulated Pension Asset (Liability) at Year End	\$11,711,030	\$7,984,462	50.19%
52	Number of Montana Employees:			
53	Covered by the Plan	1,151	1,228	-6.02%
54	Not Covered by the Plan	1,655	1,486	2.89%
55	Active	376	432	-7.71%
56	Retired	718	731	-4.43%
57	Spouses/Dependants covered by the Plan	57	65	-10.34%
	4/ There are approximately an additional \$3,109,816 and \$3,336,830 in other company OPEBS liabilities outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for other supplemental retirement agreements in addition to what is reflected for Montana above.			

SCHEDULE 16

TOP TEN MONTANA COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES (ASSIGNED OR ALLOCATED)

Note: This schedule includes the ten most highly compensated employees assigned or allocated to Montana that are not already included on Sch 17.

Line No.	Name/Title	Base Salary	Bonuses 1/	Other 2/	Total Compensation 3/	Total Compensation Reported Last Year	% Increase Total Compensation 4/
1	Michael R. Cashell Vice President, Transmission	324,917	101,374 A	35,547 B 188,078 C 131,237 D 1,413 E	782,566	694,279	12.7%
2	Jason Merkel VP - Distribution	255,008	78,542 A	33,556 B 102,003 C 127,603 D 11,852 E	608,564	382,077	59.3%
3	Jeanne M. Vold Vice President, Technology	266,909	83,276 A	65,292 B 128,750 C 22,755 D 9,285 E	576,267	573,424	0.5%
4	Jeffrey B. Berzina Controller	253,634	59,782 A	57,913 B 71,888 C 25,000 F	468,217	445,029	5.2%
5	Cynthia S. Fang Vice President, Regulatory	244,151	75,460 A	47,803 B 98,000 C	465,414	316,121	47.2%
6	John Kasperick Director, Financial Planning & Analysis	206,242	32,073 A	35,228 B 50,185 C 120,112 D 17,408 E 613 G	461,861	335,162	37.8%
7	Michael L. Nieman Chief Audit & Compliance Officer	259,450	47,853 A	57,344 B 63,358 C 30,421 D	458,426	428,300	7.0%
8	Bleau J. LaFave Vice President, Asset Management & Business Development	231,687	59,294 A	57,376 B 51,500 C 21,630 D 8,913 E	430,401	350,603	22.8%
9	Travis E. Meyer Director, Corporate Development & Investor Relations Officer	222,033	42,636 A	54,114 B 50,745 C 14,966 D 439 E	384,933	331,293	16.2%
10	Timothy P. Olson Counsel Corporate & Corporate Secretary Sr	209,107	40,205 A	52,918 B 50,434 C 6,110 E	358,774	328,575	9.2%

TOP TEN MONTANA COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES (ASSIGNED OR ALLOCATED)

Line No.	Name/Title	Base Salary 1/	Bonuses 2/	Other 3/	Total Compensation	Total Compensation Reported Last Year	% Increase Total Compensation 4/
1	1/ Bonuses include the following:						
2							
3	A> Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation includes amounts paid under the NorthWestern Energy 2023 Annual						
4	Incentive Compensation Plan. Amounts were earned in 2023 and paid in the first quarter of 2024. Based on company						
5	performance against plan, the incentive plan was funded at 77% of target. Salary and incentive in current rate recovery are based						
6	on a 2021 test period.						
7							
8	2/ All Other Compensation for named employees consists of the following:						
9							
10	B> Employer contributions to benefits generally available to all employees on a nondiscriminatory basis - medical,						
11	dental, vision, employee assistance program, group term life, health savings account, wellness incentive,						
12	401(k) match, and non-elective 401(k) contribution, as applicable.						
13							
14	C> Values reflect the grant date fair value for performance stock awards. Stock based compensation is not included in rate recovery.						
15							
16	D> Change in pension value over previous year. The present value of accumulated benefits was calculated						
17	assuming benefits commence at age 65 and using the discount rate, mortality assumption and assumed						
18	payment form consistent with those disclosed in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements						
19	in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.						
20							
21	Actual Change in Pension Value						
22		Mike Cashell	131,237				
23		Jason Merkel	127,603				
24		Jeanne Vold	22,755				
25		Jeff Berzina	—				
26		Cynthia Fang	—				
27		John Kasperick	120,112				
28		Michael Nieman	30,421				
29		Bleau LaFave	21,630				
30		Travis Meyer	14,966				
31		Timothy Olson	—				
32							
33	E> Vacation sold back during the year at 75 percent of the rate of pay at the time of sellback.						
34							
35	F> Value of executive physical examination and associated tax gross-up.						
36							
37	G> Non-Cash taxable award and gross up of taxes for the award						
38							
39							
40							
41							
42							

SCHEDULE 17

TOP FIVE MONTANA COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES (ASSIGNED OR ALLOCATED)

Note: This schedule contains the five most highly compensated corporate officers who are assigned or allocated to Montana.

Line No.	Name/Title	Base Salary 1/	Bonuses 2/	Other 3/	Total Compensation 4/	Total Compensation Reported Last Year	% Increase Total Compensation 5/
1	Brian B. Bird President & Chief Executive Officer	794,519	616,000 A	62,688 B 1,600,000 C 34,619 D 2,776 F	3,110,602	2,674,787	16.3%
2	Crystal D. Lail Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	457,716	237,425 A	55,078 B 474,375 C 23,479 D 6,396 E 2,776 F	1,257,244	1,182,035	6.4%
3	John D. Hines Vice President, Supply & Montana Government Affairs	326,553	101,758 A	35,989 B 189,694 C 123,663 D 6,384 E	784,041	704,356	11.3%
4	Shannon M. Heim General Counsel & Vice President, Federal Government Affairs	347,369	121,275 A	58,277 B 227,500 C 13,524 E 2,165 G	770,110	321,180	139.8%
5	Bobbi L. Schroeppel Vice President, Customer Care, Communications, & Human Resources	325,187	101,333 A	65,766 B 188,900 C 33,634 D 20,763 E	735,583	727,633	1.1%

TOP FIVE MONTANA COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES (ASSIGNED OR ALLOCATED)

Line No.	Name/Title	Base Salary 1/	Bonuses 2/	Other 3/	Total Compensation 4/	Total Compensation Reported Last Year	% Increase Total Compensation 5/
1	1/ Bonuses include the following:						
2							
3	A> Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation includes amounts paid under the NorthWestern Energy 2023 Annual						
4	Incentive Compensation Plan. Amounts were earned in 2023 and paid in the first quarter of 2024. Based on company						
5	performance against plan, the incentive plan was funded at 77% of target. Salary and incentive in current rate recovery are based						
6	on a 2021 test period.						
7							
8	2/ All Other Compensation for named employees consists of the following:						
9							
10	B> Employer contributions to benefits generally available to all employees on a nondiscriminatory basis - medical,						
11	dental, vision, employee assistance program, group term life, health savings account, wellness incentive,						
12	401(k) match, and non-elective 401(k) contribution, as applicable.						
13							
14	C> Values reflect the grant date fair value for performance stock awards. Stock based compensation is not included in rate recovery.						
15							
16	D> Change in pension value over previous year. The present value of accumulated benefits was calculated						
17	assuming benefits commence at age 65 and using the discount rate, mortality assumption and assumed						
18	payment form consistent with those disclosed in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements						
19	in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023.						
20							
21	Actual Change in Pension Value						
22		Brian Bird	34,619				
23		Crystal Lail	23,479				
24		John Hines	123,663				
25		Shannon Heim	—				
26		Bobbi Schroeppel	33,634				
27							
28							
29							
30	E> Vacation sold back during the year at 75 percent of the rate of pay at the time of sellback.						
31							
32	F> Value of executive physical examination and associated tax gross-up.						
33							
34	G> Non-taxable tuition reimbursement						
35							
36	3/ Stock-based compensation is paid by shareholders.						
37							
38	Recovery of non-stock-based compensation is based on 2021 ("test year") costs, which are reviewed by the Montana Consumer Counsel, other						
39	parties, and MPSC staff. There is no specific recovery of these or most other expenses.						
40							
41	Shareholders vote on executive compensation, and have consistently approved at above 96%, most recently 98.8%.						
42							
43	Our Chief Executive Officer's compensation is 75% at-risk. Overall executive compensation is discussed in the Compensation Disclosure and						
44	Analysis section of our annual Proxy Statement.						
45							

Sch. 18	BALANCE SHEET 1/				
	Account Title	This Year	Last Year	Variance	% Change
1	Assets and Other Debits				
2	Utility Plant				
3	101 Plant in Service	\$7,585,573,447	\$7,193,730,425	\$391,843,022	5.45%
4	101.1 Property Under Capital Leases	41,127,257	41,504,922	(377,665)	-0.91%
5	103 Experimental Electric Plant Unclassified	4,798,750	4,244,173	554,577	13.07%
6	105 Plant Held for Future Use	4,140,227	4,327,381	(187,154)	-4.32%
7	107 Construction Work in Progress	358,401,452	300,649,215	\$57,752,237	19.21%
8	108 Accumulated Depreciation Reserve	(2,675,309,658)	(2,600,452,294)	(\$74,857,363)	2.88%
9	108.1 Accumulated Depreciation - Capital Leases	(35,183,325)	(33,172,848)	(\$2,010,477)	6.06%
10	111 Accumulated Amortization & Depletion Reserves	(106,740,672)	(100,549,894)	(\$6,190,778)	6.16%
11	114 Electric Plant Acquisition Adjustments	481,574,396	481,574,396	-	0.00%
12	115 Accumulated Amortization-Electric Plant Acq. Adj.	(92,378,300)	(82,128,381)	(10,249,919)	12.48%
13	116 Utility Plant Adjustments	357,585,527	357,585,527	-	0.00%
14	117 Gas Stored Underground-Noncurrent	36,212,426	36,209,611	2,815	0.01%
15	Total Utility Plant	5,959,801,527	5,603,522,232	356,279,296	6.36%
16	Other Property and Investments				
17	121 Nonutility Property	686,805	686,805	-	0.00%
18	122 Accumulated Depr. & Amort.-Nonutility Property	(67,635)	(65,534)	(2,102)	3.21%
19	123.1 Investments in Assoc Companies and Subsidiaries	(97,949,544)	(109,534,834)	11,585,290	-10.58%
20	124 Other Investments	13,050,811	21,035,719	(7,984,908)	-37.96%
21	128 Miscellaneous Special Funds	-	-	-	-
22	LT Portion of Derivative Assets - Hedges	-	-	-	-
23	Total Other Property & Investments	(84,279,563)	(87,877,843)	3,598,280	-4.09%
24	Current and Accrued Assets				
25	131 Cash	8,763,190	8,069,935	693,256	8.59%
26	134 Other Special Deposits	14,856,653	12,761,965	2,094,688	16.41%
27	135 Working Funds	22,850	23,450	(600)	-2.56%
28	142 Customer Accounts Receivable	91,004,511	106,890,491	(15,885,979)	-14.86%
29	143 Other Accounts Receivable	17,049,224	26,793,906	(9,744,683)	-36.37%
30	144 Accumulated Provision for Uncollectible Accounts	(2,813,090)	(2,451,237)	(361,854)	14.76%
31	146 Accounts Receivable-Associated Companies	39,498,557	32,854,005	6,644,552	20.22%
32	151 Fuel Stock	9,710,818	7,724,941	1,985,877	25.71%
33	154 Plant Materials and Operating Supplies	85,254,493	71,154,248	14,100,245	19.82%
34	164 Gas Stored - Current	18,814,211	27,722,831	(8,908,620)	-32.13%
35	165 Prepayments	21,740,289	23,739,745	(1,999,456)	-8.42%
36	172 Rents Receivable	73,787	213,473	(139,686)	-65.43%
37	173 Accrued Utility Revenues	105,109,956	117,418,484	(12,308,528)	-10.48%
38	174 Miscellaneous Current & Accrued Assets	876,037	2,372,751	(1,496,714)	-63.08%
39	Total Current & Accrued Assets	409,961,486	435,288,987	(25,327,501)	-5.82%
40	Deferred Debits				
41	181 Unamortized Debt Expense	11,096,631	9,254,937	1,841,693	19.90%
42	182 Regulatory Assets	746,025,553	729,084,376	16,941,177	2.32%
43	183 Preliminary Survey and Investigation Charges	376,264	-	376,264	100.00%
44	184 Clearing Accounts	(2,521)	37,192	(39,713)	-106.78%
45	186 Miscellaneous Deferred Debits	11,117,717	9,558,916	1,558,801	16.31%
46	189 Unamortized Loss on Reacquired Debt	20,027,942	22,619,741	(2,591,799)	-11.46%
47	190 Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	289,883,014	163,943,624	125,939,390	76.82%
48	191 Unrecovered Purchased Gas Costs	3,394,843	100,874,939	(97,480,096)	-96.63%
49	Total Deferred Debits	1,081,919,443	1,035,373,726	46,545,717	4.50%
50	TOTAL ASSETS and OTHER DEBITS	\$ 7,367,402,893	\$ 6,986,307,102	\$ 381,095,792	5.45%

Sch. 18	cont.	BALANCE SHEET 1/			
	Account Title	This Year	Last Year	Variance	% Change
1	Liabilities and Other Credits				
2	Proprietary Capital				
3	201 Common Stock Issued	\$ 1	\$ 632,783	\$ (632,782)	-100.00%
4	211 Miscellaneous Paid-In Capital	1,981,122,792	1,999,375,991	(18,253,199)	-0.91%
5	216 Unappropriated Retained Earnings	809,312,954	769,270,841	40,042,113	5.21%
6	217 Reacquired Capital Stock	-	(98,392,040)	98,392,040	-100.00%
7	219 Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	(5,513,000)	(5,705,664)	192,664	-3.38%
8	Total Proprietary Capital	2,784,922,747	2,665,181,911	119,740,836	4.49%
9	Long Term Debt				
10	221 Bonds	2,479,660,000	2,179,660,000	300,000,000	13.76%
11	224 Other Long Term Debt	318,000,000	450,000,000	(132,000,000)	-29.33%
12	226 (Less) Unamortized Discount on Long Term Debt-Debit	6,538	33,056	(26,517)	-80.22%
13	Total Long Term Debt	2,797,663,462	2,629,626,944	168,026,517	6.39%
14	Other Noncurrent Liabilities				
15	227 Obligations Under Capital Leases-Noncurrent	5,996,448	9,389,857	(3,393,410)	-36.14%
16	228.2 Accumulated Provision for Injuries and Damages	6,745,658	4,365,711	2,379,947	54.51%
17	228.3 Accumulated Provision for Pensions and Benefits	4,631,028	10,546,632	(5,915,604)	-56.09%
18	228.4 Accumulated Miscellaneous Operating Provisions	50,272,082	72,588,961	(22,316,880)	-30.74%
19	230 Asset Retirement Obligations	41,424,213	40,893,877	530,336	1.30%
20	Total Other Noncurrent Liabilities	109,069,428	137,785,039	(28,715,610)	-20.84%
21	Current and Accrued Liabilities				
22	231 Notes Payable	-	92,403	(92,403)	-100.00%
23	232 Accounts Payable	131,709,370	214,538,889	(82,829,519)	-38.61%
24	234 Accounts Payable to Associated Companies	2,288,407	(1,884,037)	4,172,444	-221.46%
25	235 Customer Deposits	11,954,099	10,853,645	1,100,455	10.14%
26	236 Taxes Accrued	75,980,842	90,471,745	(14,490,902)	-16.02%
27	237 Interest Accrued	24,775,303	18,349,945	6,425,357	35.02%
28	241 Tax Collections Payable	1,789,013	2,441,695	(652,682)	-26.73%
29	242 Miscellaneous Current and Accrued Liabilities	73,408,628	72,418,219	990,409	1.37%
30	243 Obligations Under Capital Leases-Current	3,720,377	3,802,179	(81,801)	-2.15%
31	Total Current and Accrued Liabilities	325,626,039	411,084,682	(85,458,643)	-20.79%
32	Deferred Credits				
33	252 Customer Advances for Construction	107,470,505	95,393,208	12,077,297	12.66%
34	253 Other Deferred Credits	147,334,417	158,152,503	(10,818,086)	-6.84%
35	254 Regulatory Liabilities	190,647,029	171,400,902	19,246,126	11.23%
36	255 Accumulated Deferred Investment Tax Credits	258,964	388,447	(129,482)	-33.33%
37	281-283 Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	904,420,302	717,293,465	187,126,837	26.09%
38	Total Deferred Credits	1,350,131,217	1,142,628,525	207,502,692	18.16%
39	TOTAL LIABILITIES and OTHER CREDITS	\$ 7,367,402,893	\$ 6,986,307,101	\$ 381,095,792	5.45%
40					
41	1/ This financial statement is presented on the basis of the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory				
42	Commission (FERC) as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts. As such, subsidiaries are presented using the				
43	equity method of accounting. The amounts presented are consistent with the presentation in FERC Form 1, plus Canadian				
44	Montana Pipeline Corporation and the adjustment to a regulated basis for Colstrip Unit 4.				
45					
46					
47					
48					
49					

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) Nature of Operations and Basis of Consolidation

NorthWestern Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., doing business as NorthWestern Energy, provides electricity and / or natural gas to approximately 775,300 customers in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska and Yellowstone National Park. We have generated and distributed electricity in South Dakota and distributed natural gas in South Dakota and Nebraska since 1923 and have generated and distributed electricity and distributed natural gas in Montana since 2002.

The Financial Statements for the periods included herein have been prepared by NorthWestern Corporation (NorthWestern, we or us), pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the accounting requirements of the FERC as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases requires management to make estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Holding Company Reorganization

On October 2, 2023, NorthWestern Corporation and NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. completed a merger transaction pursuant to which NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. became the holding company parent of NorthWestern Corporation. In this reorganization, shareholders of NorthWestern Corporation (the predecessor publicly held parent company) became shareholders of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., maintaining the same number of shares and ownership percentage as held in NorthWestern Corporation immediately prior to the reorganization. NorthWestern Corporation became a wholly-owned subsidiary of NorthWestern Energy Group. The transaction was effected pursuant to a merger pursuant to Section 251(g) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, which provides for the formation of a holding company without a vote of the shareholders of the constituent corporation. As a result of the reorganization, NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. became the successor issuer to NorthWestern Corporation pursuant to Rule 12g-3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and as a result, NorthWestern Energy Group's common stock was deemed registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Upon the conversion of all issued and outstanding NorthWestern Corporation common stock into common stock of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., as described above, the common stock of NorthWestern Corporation ceased to exist. The accounting for this common stock conversion is treated as a retirement of common stock for NorthWestern Corporation as the shares cease to exist. As such, the amounts included in accounts 201 Common stock and 217 Reacquired capital stock were cleared into account 211 Other paid-in capital. Subsequent to the reorganization, NorthWestern Corporation has 100 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, which are held by NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc.

On January 1, 2024, we completed the second and final phase of the holding company reorganization. NorthWestern Corporation contributed the assets and liabilities of its South Dakota and Nebraska regulated utilities to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation, and then distributed its equity interest in NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation and certain other subsidiaries to NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc., resulting in NorthWestern Corporation owning and operating the Montana regulated utility and NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation owning and operating the Nebraska and South Dakota utilities, each as a direct subsidiary of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc.

(2) Significant Accounting Policies

Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements are presented on the basis of the accounting requirements of the FERC as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts and published accounting releases, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. This report differs from GAAP due to FERC requiring the presentation of subsidiaries on the equity method of accounting, which differs from Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 810, Consolidation. ASC 810 requires that all majority-owned subsidiaries be consolidated (see Note 4). The other significant differences consist of the following:

- Earnings per share and footnotes for revenue from contracts with customers, segment and related information, and quarterly financial data (unaudited) are not presented;
- Removal and decommissioning costs of generation, transmission and distribution assets are reflected in the Balance Sheets as a component of accumulated depreciation of \$523.7 million and \$502.2 million as of December 31,2023 and December 31,2022, respectively, in accordance with regulatory treatment as compared to regulatory liabilities for GAAP purposes;
- Goodwill is reflected in the Balance Sheets as a utility plant adjustments of \$357.6 million as of December 31,2023 and December 31,2022, respectively, in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to goodwill for GAAP purposes (see Note 8);
- The write-down of plant values associated with the 2002 acquisition of the Montana operations is reflected in the Balance Sheets as a component of accumulated depreciation of \$147.6 million for December 31,2023 and December 31,2022, respectively, in accordance with regulatory treatment as compared to plant for GAAP purposes;
- The current portion of gas stored underground is reflected in the Balance Sheets as current and accrued assets, as compared to inventory for GAAP purposes;
- Operating lease right of use assets are reflected in the Balance Sheets as capital leases of \$0.9 million and \$1.3 million as of December 31,2023 and December 31,2022, respectfully, in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to non-current assets for GAAP purposes;
- Operating lease liabilities are reflected in the Balance Sheets as current and long term obligations under capital leases of \$0.9 million and \$1.3 million as of December 31,2023 and December 31,2022, respectfully, in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to accrued expenses and long term liabilities for GAAP purposes;
- Unamortized debt expense is classified in the Balance Sheets as deferred debits in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to long-term debt for GAAP purposes;
- Current and long-term debt is classified in the Balance Sheets as all long-term debt in accordance with regulatory treatment, while current and long-term debt are presented separately for GAAP reporting;
- The current portion of the provision for injuries and damages and the expected insurance proceeds receivable related to the provision for injuries and damages are reported as a current liability for GAAP purposes, as compared to a non-current liability for FERC purposes;

- Accumulated deferred tax assets and liabilities are classified in the Balance Sheets as gross non-current deferred debits and credits, respectively, while GAAP presentation reflects a net non-current deferred tax liability;
- Stranded tax effects associated with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are included in accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) in accordance with regulatory treatment, while included in retained earnings for GAAP purposes;
- Uncertain tax positions related to temporary differences are classified in the Balance Sheets within the deferred tax accounts in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to other noncurrent liabilities for GAAP purposes. In addition, interest related to uncertain tax positions is recognized in interest expense in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to income tax expense for GAAP purposes;
- Net periodic benefit costs and net periodic post retirement benefit costs are reflected in operating expense for FERC purposes, as compared to the GAAP presentation, which reflects the current service costs component of the net periodic benefit costs in operating expenses and the other components outside of income from operations. In addition, only the service cost component of net periodic benefit cost is eligible for capitalization for GAAP purposes, as compared to the total net periodic benefit costs for FERC purposes;
- Regulatory assets and liabilities are reflected in the Balance Sheets as non-current items, while current and non-current amounts are presented separately for GAAP;
- Unbilled revenue is reflected in the Balance Sheets in Accrued utility revenues in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to Accounts receivable, net for GAAP purposes;
- Implementation costs associated with cloud computing arrangements are reflected on the Balance Sheets as Miscellaneous Intangible Plant in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to Other current assets for GAAP purposes. Additionally, these cash outflows are presented within investing activities cash outflows in the Statement of Cash Flows in accordance with regulatory treatment, as compared to operating activities cash outflows for GAAP purposes; and
- GAAP revenue differs from FERC revenue primarily due to the equity method of accounting as discussed above, netting of electric purchases and sales for resale in revenue for the GAAP presentation as compared to a gross presentation for FERC purposes (with the exception of those transactions in a regional transmission organization (RTO)), the netting of RTO transmission transactions for the GAAP presentation as compared to a gross presentation for FERC purposes, and the classification of regulatory amortizations in revenue for GAAP purposes as compared to expense for FERC purposes.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Estimates are used for such items as long-lived asset values and impairment charges, long-lived asset useful lives, tax provisions, uncertain tax position reserves, asset retirement obligations, regulatory assets and liabilities, allowances for uncollectible accounts, our Qualifying Facilities liability, environmental liabilities, unbilled revenues and actuarially determined benefit costs and liabilities. We revise the recorded estimates when we receive better information or when we can determine actual amounts. Those revisions can affect operating results.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue as customers obtain control of promised goods and services in an amount that reflects consideration expected in exchange for those goods or services. Generally, the delivery of electricity and natural gas results in the transfer of control to customers at the time the commodity is delivered and the amount of revenue recognized is equal to the amount billed to each customer, including estimated volumes delivered when billings have not yet occurred.

Cash Equivalents

We consider all highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents.

Accounts Receivable, Net

Accounts receivable are net of allowances for uncollectible accounts of \$2.8 million and \$2.5 million at December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively. Unbilled revenues were \$105.1 million and \$117.4 million at December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, respectively.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at average cost. Inventory consisted of the following (in thousands):

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fuel stock	\$ 9,711	\$ 7,725
Plant materials and operating supplies	85,254	71,154
Gas stored underground (including the non-current portion reflected in utility plant)	55,027	63,933
Total Inventories	\$ 149,992	\$ 142,812

Regulation of Utility Operations

Our regulated operations are subject to the provisions of ASC 980, *Regulated Operations*. Regulated accounting is appropriate provided that (i) rates are established by or subject to approval by independent, third-party regulators, (ii) rates are designed to recover the specific enterprise's cost of service, and (iii) in view of demand for service, it is reasonable to assume that rates are set at levels that will recover costs and can be charged to and collected from customers.

Our Financial Statements reflect the effects of the different rate making principles followed by the jurisdictions regulating us. The economic effects of regulation can result in regulated companies recording costs that have been, or are deemed probable to be, allowed in the ratemaking process in a period different from the period in which the costs would be charged to expense by an unregulated enterprise. When this occurs, costs are deferred as regulatory assets and recorded as expenses in the periods when those same amounts are reflected in rates. Additionally, regulators can impose liabilities upon a regulated company for amounts previously collected from customers and for amounts that are expected to be refunded to customers (Accumulated Provision for Rate Refunds).

If we were required to terminate the application of these provisions to our regulated operations, all such deferred amounts would be recognized in the Statements of Income at that time. This would result in a charge to earnings and (AOCI),

net of applicable income taxes, which could be material. In addition, we would determine any impairment to the carrying costs of deregulated plant and inventory assets.

Derivative Financial Instruments

We account for derivative instruments in accordance with ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*. All derivatives are recognized in the Balance Sheets at their fair value unless they qualify for certain exceptions, including the normal purchases and normal sales exception. Additionally, derivatives that qualify and are designated for hedge accounting are classified as either hedges of the fair value of a recognized asset or liability or of an unrecognized firm commitment (fair-value hedge) or hedges of a forecasted transaction or the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability (cash-flow hedge). For fair-value hedges, changes in fair values for both the derivative and the underlying hedged exposure are recognized in earnings each period. For cash-flow hedges, the portion of the derivative gain or loss that is effective in offsetting the change in the cost or value of the underlying exposure is deferred in AOCI and later reclassified into earnings when the underlying transaction occurs. Gains and losses from the ineffective portion of any hedge are recognized in earnings immediately. For other derivative contracts that do not qualify or are not designated for hedge accounting, changes in the fair value of the derivatives are recognized in earnings each period. Cash inflows and outflows related to derivative instruments are included as a component of operating, investing or financing cash flows in the Statements of Cash Flows, depending on the underlying nature of the hedged items. As of December 31, 2023, the only derivative instruments we have qualify for the normal purchases and normal sales exception.

Revenues and expenses on contracts that are designated as normal purchases and normal sales are recognized when the underlying physical transaction is completed. While these contracts are considered derivative financial instruments, they are not required to be recorded at fair value, but on an accrual basis of accounting. Normal purchases and normal sales are contracts where physical delivery is probable, quantities are expected to be used or sold in the normal course of business over a reasonable period of time, and price is not tied to an unrelated underlying derivative. As part of our regulated electric and gas operations, we enter into contracts to buy and sell energy to meet the requirements of our customers. These contracts include short-term and long-term commitments to purchase and sell energy in the retail and wholesale markets with the intent and ability to deliver or take delivery. If it were determined that a transaction designated as a normal purchase or a normal sale no longer met the exceptions, the fair value of the related contract would be reflected as an asset or liability and immediately recognized through earnings. See Note 9 - Risk Management and Hedging Activities, for further discussion of our derivative activity.

Utility Plant

Utility Plant is stated at original cost, including contracted services, direct labor and material, allowance for funds used during construction (AFUDC), and indirect charges for engineering, supervision and similar overhead items. All expenditures for maintenance and repairs of utility plant are charged to the appropriate maintenance expense accounts. A betterment or replacement of a unit of property is accounted for as an addition and retirement of utility plant. At the time of such a retirement, the accumulated provision for depreciation is charged with the original cost of the property retired and also for the net cost of removal. Also included in plant and equipment are assets under finance lease, which are stated at the present value of minimum lease payments.

AFUDC represents the cost of financing construction projects with borrowed funds and equity funds. While cash is not realized currently from such allowance, it is realized under the ratemaking process over the service life of the related property through increased revenues resulting from a higher rate base and higher depreciation expense. The component of AFUDC attributable to borrowed funds is included as a reduction to net interest charges, while the equity component is included in other income. This rate averaged 6.4% for Montana for 2023 and 2022. This rate averaged 6.4% for South Dakota in 2023

and 2022. AFUDC capitalized totaled \$24.3 million and \$20.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, for Montana and South Dakota combined.

We record provisions for depreciation at amounts substantially equivalent to calculations made on a straight-line method by applying various rates based on useful lives of the various classes of properties (ranging from 2 to 127 years) determined from engineering studies. As a percentage of the depreciable utility plant at the beginning of the year, our provision for depreciation of utility plant was approximately 2.8% for 2023 and 2022.

Depreciation rates include a provision for our share of the estimated costs to decommission our jointly owned plants at the end of the useful life. The annual provision for such costs is included in depreciation expense, while the accumulated provisions are included in accumulated depreciation.

Pension and Postretirement Benefits

We have liabilities under defined benefit retirement plans and a postretirement plan that offers certain health care and life insurance benefits to eligible employees and their dependents. The costs of these plans are dependent upon numerous factors, assumptions and estimates, including determination of discount rate, expected return on plan assets, rate of future compensation increases, age and mortality and employment periods. In determining the projected benefit obligations and costs, assumptions can change from period to period and may result in material changes in the cost and liabilities we recognize.

Income Taxes

We follow the liability method in accounting for income taxes. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities represent the future effects on income taxes from temporary differences between the bases of assets and liabilities for financial reporting and tax purposes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to reverse. The probability of realizing deferred tax assets is based on forecasts of future taxable income and the availability of tax planning strategies that can be implemented, if necessary, to realize deferred tax assets. We establish a valuation allowance when it is more likely than not that all, or a portion of, a deferred tax asset will not be realized.

Exposures exist related to various tax filing positions, which may require an extended period of time to resolve and may result in income tax adjustments by taxing authorities. We have reduced deferred tax assets or established liabilities based on our best estimate of future probable adjustments related to these exposures. On a quarterly basis, we evaluate exposures in light of any additional information and make adjustments as necessary to reflect the best estimate of the future outcomes. We believe our deferred tax assets and established liabilities are appropriate for estimated exposures; however, actual results may differ from these estimates. The resolution of tax matters in a particular future period could have a material impact on our Statements of Income and provision for income taxes.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 our production tax credits may be transferred to an unrelated entity. Our policy is to account for these transferable credits within income tax expense.

Environmental Costs

We record environmental costs when it is probable we are liable for the costs and we can reasonably estimate the liability. We may defer costs as a regulatory asset if there is precedent for recovering similar costs from customers in rates.

Otherwise, we expense the costs. If an environmental cost is related to facilities we currently use, such as pollution control equipment, then we may capitalize and depreciate the costs over the remaining life of the asset, assuming the costs are recoverable in future rates or future cash flows.

Our remediation cost estimates are based on the use of an environmental consultant, our experience, our assessment of the current situation and the technology currently available for use in the remediation. We regularly adjust the recorded costs as we revise estimates and as remediation proceeds. If we are one of several designated responsible parties, then we estimate and record only our share of the cost.

Supplemental Cash Flow Information

	Twelve Months Ended	
	2023	2022
(in thousands)		
Cash paid (received) for:		
Income taxes	\$ (827)	\$ 4,707
Interest	105,238	95,400
Significant non-cash transactions:		
Capital expenditures included in trade accounts payable	42,322	64,758

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, working funds, and special deposits reported within the Balance Sheets that sum to the total of the same such amounts shown in the Statements of Cash Flows (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 8,763	\$ 8,069
Working funds	23	23
Special deposits	14,857	12,762
Total shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	\$ 23,643	\$ 20,854

Special deposits consist primarily of funds held in trust accounts to satisfy the requirements of certain stipulation agreements and insurance reserve requirements.

Accounting Standards Issued

There were no accounting standards adopted in the current year that had a material impact to our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows. At this time, we are not expecting the adoption of recently issued accounting standards to have a material impact to our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

(3) Regulatory Matters

Montana Rate Review

On August 8, 2022, we filed a Montana electric and natural gas rate review with the MPSC under Docket 2022.07.78 requesting an annual increase to electric and natural gas utility rates. On October 27, 2023, the MPSC issued a final order approving the settlement agreement filed April 3, 2023. Final rates, adjusting from interim to settled rates, were effective November 1, 2023. The details of our settlement agreement are set forth below:

Returns, Capital Structure & Revenue Increase Resulting From Approved Settlement Agreement (\$ in millions)

	Electric	Natural Gas
Return on Equity (ROE)	9.65%	9.55%
Equity Capital Structure	48.02%	48.02%
Base Rates	\$67.4	\$14.1
PCCAM ⁽¹⁾	\$69.7	n/a
Property Tax (tracker base adjustment) ⁽¹⁾	\$14.5	\$4.2
Total Revenue Increase Through Approved Settlement Agreement	\$151.6	\$18.3

(1) These items are flow-through costs. PCCAM reflects our fuel and purchased power costs.

The approved settlement includes, among other things, agreement on electric and natural gas base revenue increases, allocated cost of service, rate design, updates to the base amount of revenues associated with property taxes and electric supply costs, and regulatory policy issues related to requested changes in regulatory mechanisms.

The approved settlement agreement provides for an update to the PCCAM by adjusting the base costs from \$138.7 million to \$208.4 million and providing for more timely quarterly recovery of deferred balances instead of annual recovery. It also addresses the potential for future recovery of certain operating costs associated with the Yellowstone County Generating Station and provides for the deferral of incremental operating costs related to our Enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The settling parties agreed to terminate the pilot decoupling program (Fixed Cost Recovery Mechanism) and that the proposed business technology rider will not be implemented.

South Dakota Electric Rate Review

On June 15, 2023, we filed a South Dakota electric rate review filing (2022 test year) under Docket EL23-016 for an annual increase to electric rates totaling approximately \$30.9 million. Our request was based on a rate of return of 7.54 percent, a capital structure including 50.5 percent equity, and rate base of \$787.3 million. On January 10, 2024, the SDPUC issued a final order approving the settlement agreement between NorthWestern and SDPUC Staff for an annual increase in base rates of approximately \$21.5 million and an authorized rate of return of 6.81 percent. The approved settlement is based on a capital structure of 50.5 percent equity and a rate base of \$791.8 million. Final rates were effective January 10, 2024. In addition, NorthWestern was approved a phase in rate plan rider that allows for the recovery of capital investments not yet included in base rates.

(4) Equity Investments

The following table presents our equity investments reflected in the investments in subsidiary companies on the Balance Sheets (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Colstrip Unit 4 Basis Adjustment	\$ (126,142)	\$ (129,895)
Havre Pipeline Company, LLC	13,163	11,399
NorthWestern Energy Solutions, Inc.	11,797	2,091
NorthWestern Services, LLC	2,135	5,738
Risk Partners Assurance, Ltd.	1,097	1,132
NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation	—	—
Total Investments in Subsidiary Companies	\$ (97,950)	\$ (109,535)

(5) Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

We prepare our Financial Statements in accordance with the provisions of ASC 980, as discussed in Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies. Pursuant to this guidance, certain expenses and credits, normally reflected in income as incurred, are deferred and recognized when included in rates and recovered from or refunded to customers. Regulatory assets and liabilities are recorded based on management's assessment that it is probable that a cost will be recovered or that an obligation has been incurred. Accordingly, we have recorded the following major classifications of regulatory assets and liabilities that will be recognized in expenses and revenues in future periods when the matching revenues are collected or refunded. Of these regulatory assets and liabilities, energy supply costs are the only items earning a rate of return. These remaining regulatory items have corresponding assets and liabilities that will be paid for or refunded in future periods.

	Note Reference	Remaining Amortization	December 31,	
			2023	2022
			(in thousands)	
Flow-through income taxes	14	Plant Lives	\$ 553,452	\$ 509,038
Pension	16	See Note 16	79,638	87,965
Excess deferred income taxes	14	Plant Lives	51,404	54,364
Employee related benefits	16	See Note 16	21,926	27,920
State & local taxes & fees		1 Year	2,733	15,643
Environmental clean-up	19	Undetermined	11,131	10,963
Other		Various	25,741	23,191
Total Regulatory Assets			\$ 746,025	\$ 729,084
Excess deferred income taxes	14	Plant Lives	136,382	148,989
Unbilled revenue		1 Year	16,004	11,536
Gas storage sales		17 years	6,625	7,046
State & local taxes & fees		1 Year	30,576	2,327
Environmental clean-up and other		1 Year	1,059	1,503
Total Regulatory Liabilities			\$ 190,646	\$ 171,401

Income Taxes

Flow-through income taxes primarily reflect the effects of plant related temporary differences such as flow-through of depreciation, repairs related deductions, and removal costs that we will recover or refund in future rates. We amortize these amounts as temporary differences reverse. Excess deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recorded as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and will be recovered or refunded in future rates. See Note 14 - Income Taxes for further discussion.

Pension and Employee Related Benefits

We recognize the unfunded portion of plan benefit obligations in the Balance Sheets, which is remeasured at each year end, with a corresponding adjustment to regulatory assets/liabilities as the costs associated with these plans are recovered in rates. The MPSC allows recovery of pension costs on a cash funding basis. The portion of the regulatory asset related to our Montana pension plan will amortize as cash funding amounts exceed accrual expense under GAAP. The SDPUC allows recovery of pension and postretirement benefit costs on an accrual basis. The MPSC allows recovery of postretirement benefit costs on an accrual basis.

State & Local Taxes & Fees (Montana Property Tax Tracker)

Under Montana law, we are allowed to track the changes in the actual level of state and local taxes and fees and recover the increase in rates, less the amount allocated to FERC jurisdictional customers and net of the related income tax benefit.

Environmental Clean-up

Environmental clean-up costs are the estimated costs of investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites we own. We discuss the specific sites and clean-up requirements further in Note 19 - Commitments and Contingencies. Environmental clean-up costs are typically recoverable in customer rates when they are actually incurred. When cost projections become known and measurable, we coordinate with the appropriate regulatory authority to determine a recovery period.

Gas Storage Sales

A regulatory liability was established in 2000 and 2001 based on gains on cushion gas sales in Montana. This gain is being flowed to customers over a period that matches the depreciable life of surface facilities that were added to maintain deliverability from the field after the withdrawal of the gas. This regulatory liability is a reduction of rate base.

Enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Plan

We have developed an Enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Plan addressing five key areas: situational awareness, operational practices, system preparedness, vegetation management, and public communications outreach. Because of ever-increasing wildfire risk, our plan includes greater focus on situational awareness to monitor changing environmental conditions, operational practices that are more reactive to changing conditions, increased frequency of patrol and repairs, and more robust system hardening programs that target higher risk segments in our transmission and distribution systems. As discussed within Note 3 - Regulatory Matters, the approved Montana rate review settlement provides for the deferral of incremental operating costs related to this Enhanced Wildfire Mitigation Plan. As of December 31, 2023, we have deferred \$1.6 million of incremental costs as a regulatory asset related to this plan for future recovery.

Unbilled Revenue

In accordance with regulatory guidance in South Dakota, we recognize revenue when it is billed. Accordingly, we record a regulatory liability to offset unbilled revenue.

(6) Utility Plant

The following table presents the major classifications of our net utility plant (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
	(in thousands)	
Electric Plant	5,817,626	5,563,314
Natural Gas Plant	1,443,363	1,307,060
Plant acquisition adjustment	481,574	481,574
Common and Other Plant	374,652	373,433
Construction work in process	358,401	300,649
Total utility plant	8,475,616	8,026,030
Less accumulated depreciation	(2,909,612)	(2,816,303)
Net utility plant	\$ 5,566,004	\$ 5,209,727

Net utility plant under capital (finance) lease were \$5.2 million and \$7.2 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, which included \$5.0 million and \$7.0 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, related to a long-term power supply contract with the owners of a natural gas fired peaking plant, which has been accounted for as a finance lease.

Jointly Owned Electric Generating Plant

We have an ownership interest in four base-load electric generating plants, all of which are coal fired and operated by other companies. We have an undivided interest in these facilities and are responsible for our proportionate share of the capital and operating costs while being entitled to our proportionate share of the power generated. Our interest in each plant is reflected in the Balance Sheets on a pro rata basis and our share of operating expenses is reflected in the Statements of Income. The participants each finance their own investment.

On January 16, 2023, we entered into a definitive agreement (Agreement) with Avista Corporation (Avista) to acquire Avista's 15 percent interest in each of Units 3 and 4 at the Colstrip Generating Station, a coal-fired, base-load electric generation facility located in Colstrip, Montana. As noted in the table below, we currently have a 30 percent interest in Unit 4. The Agreement provides that the purchase price will be \$0 and that we will acquire Avista's interest effective December 31, 2025, subject to the satisfaction of the closing conditions contained within the agreement. Under the terms of this Agreement, we will be responsible for operating costs starting on January 1, 2026; while Avista will retain responsibility for its pre-closing share of environmental and pension liabilities attributed to events or conditions existing prior to the closing of the transaction and for any future decommission and demolition costs associated with the existing facilities that comprise Avista's interest.

The Agreement contains customary representations and warranties, covenants, and indemnification obligations, and the Agreement is subject to customary conditions and approvals, including approval from the FERC. Closing also is conditioned on our ability to enter into a new coal supply agreement for Colstrip by December 31, 2024. Such coal supply agreement must provide a sufficient amount of coal to Colstrip to permit the generation of electric power by the maximum permitted capacity of the interest in Colstrip then held by us during the period from January 1, 2026 through, December 31, 2030.

Either party may terminate the Agreement if any requested regulatory approval is denied or if the closing has not occurred by December 31, 2025 or if any law or order would delay or impair closing.

Information relating to our ownership interest in these facilities is as follows (in thousands):

	Big Stone (SD)	Neal #4 (IA)	Coyote (ND)	Colstrip Unit 4 (MT)
December 31, 2023				
Ownership percentages	23.4 %	8.7 %	10.0 %	30.0 %
Plant in service	\$ 156,696	\$ 64,132	\$ 52,630	\$ 323,793
Accumulated depreciation	48,537	40,528	42,942	128,484
December 31, 2022				
Ownership percentages	23.4 %	8.7 %	10.0 %	30.0 %
Plant in service	\$ 155,567	\$ 63,032	\$ 51,796	\$ 326,584
Accumulated depreciation	46,748	39,077	42,465	122,938

(7) Asset Retirement Obligations

We are obligated to dispose of certain long-lived assets upon their abandonment. We recognize a liability for the legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity in which the timing and/or method of settlement are conditional on a future event. We measure the liability at fair value when incurred and capitalize a corresponding amount as part of the book value of the related assets, which increases our utility plant and asset retirement obligations (ARO). The increase in the capitalized cost is included in determining depreciation expense over the estimated useful life of these assets. Since the fair value of the ARO is determined using a present value approach, accretion of the liability due to the passage of time is recognized each period and recorded as a regulatory asset until the settlement of the liability. Revisions to estimated AROs can result from changes in retirement cost estimates, revisions to estimated inflation rates, and changes in the estimated timing of abandonment. If the obligation is settled for an amount other than the carrying amount of the liability, we will recognize a regulatory asset or liability for the difference, which will be surcharged/refunded to customers through the rate making process. We record regulatory assets and liabilities for differences in timing of asset retirement costs recovered in rates and AROs recorded since asset retirement costs are recovered through rates charged to customers.

Our AROs relate to the reclamation and removal costs at our jointly-owned coal-fired generation facilities, U.S. Department of Transportation requirements to cut, purge and cap retired natural gas pipeline segments, our obligation to plug and abandon oil and gas wells at the end of their life, and to remove all above-ground wind power facilities and restore the soil surface at the end of their life. The following table presents the change in our ARO (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Liability at January 1,	\$ 40,894	\$ 40,631
Accretion expense	1,899	1,853
Liabilities incurred	—	—
Liabilities settled	(1,244)	(4,004)
Revisions to cash flows	(125)	2,414
Liability at December 31,	<u>\$ 41,424</u>	<u>\$ 40,894</u>

During the twelve months ended December 31, 2023 our ARO liability decreased \$1.2 million for partial settlement of the legal obligations at our jointly-owned coal-fired generation facilities and natural gas pipeline segments. Additionally, during the twelve months ended December 31, 2023, our ARO liability decreased \$0.1 million related to changes in both the timing and amount of retirement cost estimates.

In addition, we have identified removal liabilities related to our electric and natural gas transmission and distribution assets that have been installed on easements over property not owned by us. The easements are generally perpetual and only require remediation action upon abandonment or cessation of use of the property for the specified purpose. The ARO liability is not estimable for such easements as we intend to utilize these properties indefinitely. In the event we decide to abandon or cease the use of a particular easement, an ARO liability would be recorded at that time. We also identified AROs associated with our hydroelectric generating facilities; however, due to the indeterminate removal date, the fair value of the associated liabilities currently cannot be estimated and no amounts are recognized in the Financial Statements.

We collect removal costs in rates for certain transmission and distribution assets that do not have associated AROs. Generally, the accrual of future non-ARO removal obligations is not required; however, long-standing ratemaking practices approved by applicable state and federal regulatory commissions have allowed provisions for such costs in historical depreciation rates.

(8) Utility Plant Adjustments

We completed our annual utility plant adjustment impairment test as of April 1, 2023. We evaluated qualitative factors (including macroeconomic conditions, industry and market considerations, cost factors, and overall financial performance) to determine whether it was more likely than not that the fair value of our reporting units were less than their carrying amounts. Our evaluation of these factors concluded that it was not more likely than not that the fair value of our reporting units was less than their carrying amounts and therefore no further testing was necessary.

(9) Risk Management and Hedging Activities

Nature of Our Business and Associated Risks

We are exposed to certain risks related to the ongoing operations of our business, including the impact of market fluctuations in the price of electricity and natural gas commodities and changes in interest rates. We rely on market purchases to fulfill a portion of our electric and natural gas supply requirements. Several factors influence price levels and volatility. These factors include, but are not limited to, seasonal changes in demand, weather conditions, available generating assets within regions, transportation availability and reliability within and between regions, fuel availability, market liquidity, and the nature and extent of current and potential federal and state regulations.

Objectives and Strategies for Using Derivatives

To manage our exposure to fluctuations in commodity prices we routinely enter into derivative contracts. These types of contracts are included in our electric and natural gas supply portfolios and are used to manage price volatility risk by taking advantage of fluctuations in market prices. While individual contracts may be above or below market value, the overall portfolio approach is intended to provide greater price stability for consumers. We do not maintain a trading portfolio, and our derivative transactions are only used for risk management purposes consistent with regulatory guidelines.

In addition, we may use interest rate swaps to manage our interest rate exposures associated with new debt issuances or to manage our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates on variable rate debt.

Accounting for Derivative Instruments

We evaluate new and existing transactions and agreements to determine whether they are derivatives. The permitted accounting treatments include: normal purchase normal sale (NPNS); cash flow hedge; fair value hedge; and mark-to-market. Mark-to-market accounting is the default accounting treatment for all derivatives unless they qualify, and we specifically designate them, for one of the other accounting treatments. Derivatives designated for any of the elective accounting treatments must meet specific, restrictive criteria both at the time of designation and on an ongoing basis. The changes in the fair value of recognized derivatives are recorded each period in current earnings or other comprehensive income, depending on whether a derivative is designated as part of a hedge transaction and the type of hedge transaction.

Normal Purchases and Normal Sales

We have applied the NPNS scope exception to our contracts involving the physical purchase and sale of gas and electricity at fixed prices in future periods. During our normal course of business, we enter into full-requirement energy contracts, power purchase agreements and physical capacity contracts, which qualify for NPNS. All of these contracts are accounted for using the accrual method of accounting; therefore, there were no unrealized amounts recorded in the Financial Statements at December 31, 2023 and 2022. Revenues and expenses from these contracts are reported on a gross basis in the appropriate revenue and expense categories as the commodities are received or delivered.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the potential loss resulting from counterparty non-performance under an agreement. We manage credit risk with policies and procedures for, among other things, counterparty analysis and exposure measurement, monitoring and mitigation. We limit credit risk in our commodity and interest rate derivatives activities by assessing the creditworthiness of

potential counterparties before entering into transactions with them and continuing to evaluate their creditworthiness on an ongoing basis.

We are exposed to credit risk through buying and selling electricity and natural gas to serve customers. We may request collateral or other security from our counterparties based on the assessment of creditworthiness and expected credit exposure. It is possible that volatility in commodity prices could cause us to have material credit risk exposures with one or more counterparties. We enter into commodity master enabling agreements with our counterparties to mitigate credit exposure, as these agreements reduce the risk of default by allowing us or our counterparty the ability to make net payments. The agreements generally are: (1) Western Systems Power Pool agreements – standardized power purchase and sales contracts in the electric industry; (2) International Swaps and Derivatives Association agreements – standardized financial gas and electric contracts; (3) North American Energy Standards Board agreements – standardized physical gas contracts; and (4) Edison Electric Institute Master Purchase and Sale Agreements – standardized power sales contracts in the electric industry.

Many of our forward purchase contracts contain provisions that require us to maintain an investment grade credit rating from each of the major credit rating agencies. If our credit rating were to fall below investment grade, the counterparties could require immediate payment or demand immediate and ongoing full overnight collateralization on contracts in net liability positions.

Interest Rate Swaps Designated as Cash Flow Hedges

We have previously used interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges to manage our interest rate exposures associated with new debt issuances. We have no interest rate swaps outstanding. These swaps were designated as cash flow hedges with the effective portion of gains and losses, net of associated deferred income tax effects, recorded in AOCI. We reclassify these gains from AOCI into interest on long term debt during the periods in which the hedged interest payments occur. The following table shows the effect of these interest rate swaps previously terminated on the Financial Statements (in thousands):

Cash Flow Hedges	Location of Amount Reclassified from AOCI to Income	Amount Reclassified from AOCI into Income during the Year Ended December
Interest rate contracts	Interest on long-term debt	\$ 612

A pre-tax loss of approximately \$12.8 million is remaining in AOCI as of December 31, 2023, and we expect to reclassify approximately \$0.6 million of pre-tax losses from AOCI into interest expense during the next twelve months. These amounts relate to terminated swaps.

(10) Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e., an exit price). Measuring fair value requires the use of market data or assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk and the risks inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. These inputs can be readily observable, corroborated by market data, or generally unobservable. Valuation techniques are required to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Applicable accounting guidance establishes a hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value, and requires fair value measurements to be categorized based on the observability of those inputs. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices available in active markets at the measurement date for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – Pricing inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date; and
- Level 3 – Significant inputs that are generally not observable from market activity.

We classify assets and liabilities within the fair value hierarchy based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement of each individual asset and liability taken as a whole. Due to the short-term nature of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, net, and accounts payable, the carrying amount of each such item approximates fair value. The table below sets forth by level within the fair value hierarchy the gross components of our assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. NPNS transactions are not included in the fair values by source table as they are not recorded at fair value. See Note 9 - Risk Management and Hedging Activities for further discussion.

We record transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy, if necessary, at the end of the reporting period. There were no transfers between levels for the periods presented.

December 31, 2023	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Margin Cash Collateral Offset	Total Net Fair Value
	(in thousands)				
Special deposits	\$ 14,857	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 14,857
Rabbi trust investments	17,093	—	—	—	17,093
Total	\$ 31,950	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 31,950
December 31, 2022					
Special deposits	\$ 12,762	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 12,762
Rabbi trust investments	20,895	—	—	—	20,895
Total	\$ 33,657	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 33,657

Special deposits represent amounts held in money market mutual funds. Rabbi trust investments represent assets held for non-qualified deferred compensation plans, which consist of our common stock and actively traded mutual funds with quoted prices in active markets.

Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value of financial instruments is summarized as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2023		December 31, 2022	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
Liabilities:				
Long-term debt	\$ 2,797,660	\$ 2,534,105	\$ 2,629,660	\$ 2,327,478

The estimated fair value amounts have been determined using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies; however, considerable judgment is required in interpreting market data to develop estimates of fair value. Accordingly, the estimates presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that we would realize in a current market exchange.

We determined fair value for long-term debt based on interest rates that are currently available to us for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities, except for publicly traded debt, for which fair value is based on market prices for the same or similar issues or upon the quoted market prices of U.S. treasury issues having a similar term to maturity, adjusted for our bond issuance rating and the present value of future cash flows. These are significant other observable inputs, or level 2 inputs, in the fair value hierarchy.

(11) Unsecured Credit Facilities

Credit Facility

On November 29, 2023, NorthWestern Corporation amended its existing \$425.0 million revolving credit facility (the Amended Facility) to address the holding company reorganization and extended the maturity date of the facility to November 29, 2028. The Amended Facility does not amortize and is unsecured. Borrowings may be made at interest rates equal to (a) SOFR, plus a credit spread adjustment of 10.0 basis points plus a margin of 100.0 to 175.0 basis points, or (b) a base rate, plus a margin of 0.0 to 75.0 basis points. After the completion of the holding company reorganization on January 1, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation owns and operates only the Montana regulated utility, and the base capacity of the Amended Facility automatically reduced to \$400.0 million.

On October 28, 2022, we entered into a \$100.0 million Credit Agreement (the Additional Credit Facility) to supplement our existing \$425.0 million revolving credit facility. The Additional Credit Facility has a maturity date of April 28, 2024. The Additional Credit Facility does not amortize and is unsecured. Borrowings may be made at interest rates equal to (a) SOFR, plus a credit spread adjustment of 10.0 basis points, plus a margin of 100.0 to 175.0 basis points, or (b) a base rate, plus a margin of 0.0 to 75.0 basis points. As of December 31, 2023, there were no amounts outstanding under this Additional Credit Facility.

On March 25, 2023, we amended our existing \$25.0 million swingline credit facility (the Swingline Facility) to extend the maturity date of the facility from March 27, 2024 to March 27, 2025. The Swingline Facility does not amortize and is unsecured. Borrowings may be made at interest rates equal to (a) SOFR, plus a margin of 90.0 basis points, or (b) a base rate, plus a margin of 12.5 basis points. As of December 31, 2023, there were no amounts outstanding under this Swingline Facility.

On January 2, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation terminated its \$100.0 million Additional Credit Facility. On January 4, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation terminated its \$25.0 million Swingline Facility.

Commitment fees for the unsecured revolving lines of credit were \$0.6 million and \$0.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The availability under the facilities in place for the years ended December 31 is shown in the following table (in millions):

	2023	2022
Unsecured revolving line of credit, expiring May 2027	\$ —	\$ 425.0
Unsecured revolving line of credit, expiring November 2028 ⁽¹⁾	425.0	—
Unsecured revolving line of credit, expiring April 2024 ⁽²⁾	100.0	100.0
Unsecured revolving line of credit, expiring March 2025 ⁽²⁾	25.0	25.0
	550.0	550.0
Amounts outstanding at December 31:		
SOFR borrowings	318.0	450.0
Letters of credit	—	—
	318.0	450.0
Net availability as of December 31	\$ 232.0	\$ 100.0

(1) Upon the completion of the holding company reorganization on January 1, 2024, the base capacity of this facility decreased to \$400.0 million.

(2) NorthWestern Corporation terminated the \$100.0 million Additional Credit Facility on January 2, 2024, and the \$25.0 million Swingline Facility on January 4, 2024.

Our credit facilities include covenants that require us to meet certain financial tests, including a maximum debt to capitalization ratio not to exceed 65 percent. The facilities also contain covenants which, among other things, limit our ability to engage in any consolidation or merger or otherwise liquidate or dissolve, dispose of property, and enter into transactions with affiliates. A default on the Montana First Mortgage Bonds would trigger a cross default on the Amended Facility; however, a default on the Amended Facility would not trigger a default on the Montana First Mortgage Bonds.

(12) Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Due	December 31,	
		2023	2022
Unsecured Debt:			
Unsecured Revolving Line of Credit	2027	\$ —	\$ 425,000
Unsecured Revolving Line of Credit	2028	318,000	—
Unsecured Revolving Line of Credit	2024	—	25,000
Secured Debt:			
Mortgage bonds—			
South Dakota—5.01%	2025	64,000	64,000
South Dakota—4.15%	2042	30,000	30,000
South Dakota—4.30%	2052	20,000	20,000
South Dakota—4.85%	2043	50,000	50,000
South Dakota—4.22%	2044	30,000	30,000
South Dakota—4.26%	2040	70,000	70,000
South Dakota—3.21%	2030	50,000	50,000
South Dakota—2.80%	2026	60,000	60,000
South Dakota—2.66%	2026	45,000	45,000
South Dakota—5.57%	2033	31,000	—
South Dakota—5.42%	2033	30,000	—
Montana—5.71%	2039	55,000	55,000
Montana—5.01%	2025	161,000	161,000
Montana—4.15%	2042	60,000	60,000
Montana—4.30%	2052	40,000	40,000
Montana—4.85%	2043	15,000	15,000
Montana—3.99%	2028	35,000	35,000
Montana—4.176%	2044	450,000	450,000
Montana—3.11%	2025	75,000	75,000
Montana—4.11%	2045	125,000	125,000
Montana—4.03%	2047	250,000	250,000
Montana—3.98%	2049	150,000	150,000
Montana—3.21%	2030	100,000	100,000
Montana—1.00%	2024	100,000	100,000
Montana—5.57%	2033	239,000	—
Pollution control obligations—			
Montana—2.00%	2023	—	144,660
Montana—3.88%	2028	144,660	—
Total Long-Term Debt		\$ 2,797,660	\$ 2,629,660

Secured Debt

First Mortgage Bonds and Pollution Control Obligations

The South Dakota First Mortgage Bonds are a series of general obligation bonds issued under our South Dakota indenture. These bonds are secured by substantially all of our South Dakota and Nebraska electric and natural gas assets. The South Dakota indenture was transferred from NorthWestern Corporation to NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation upon the completion of the holding company reorganization on January 1, 2024.

The Montana First Mortgage Bonds are a series of general obligation bonds issued under our Montana indenture. These bonds are secured by substantially all of our Montana electric and natural gas assets.

On March 30, 2023, we issued and sold \$239.0 million aggregate principal amount of Montana First Mortgage Bonds (the bonds) at a fixed interest rate of 5.57 percent maturing on March 30, 2033. On this same day, we issued and sold \$31.0 million aggregate principal amount of South Dakota First Mortgage Bonds at a fixed interest rate of 5.57 percent maturing on March 30, 2033. On May 1, 2023, we issued and sold an additional \$30 million aggregate principal amount of South Dakota First Mortgage Bonds at a fixed interest rate of 5.42 percent maturing on May 1, 2033. These bonds were issued in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933. Proceeds were used to repay a portion of our outstanding borrowings under our revolving credit facilities and for other general corporate purposes.

On June 29, 2023, the City of Forsyth, Rosebud County, Montana issued \$144.7 million principal amount of Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds (2023 Pollution Control Bonds) on our behalf. The 2023 Pollution Control Bonds were issued at a fixed interest rate of 3.88 percent maturing on July 1, 2028. The proceeds of the issuance were loaned to us pursuant to a Loan Agreement and were deposited directly with U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as trustee, for the redemption of the 2.00 percent, \$144.7 million City of Forsyth Pollution Control Revenue Refunding Bonds due on August 1, 2023 that had previously been issued on our behalf. Pursuant to the Loan Agreement, we are obligated to make payments in such amounts and at such times as will be sufficient to pay, when due, the principal and interest on the 2023 Pollution Control Bonds. Our obligations under the Loan Agreement are secured by delivery of a like amount of our Montana First Mortgage Bonds, which are secured by our Montana electric and natural gas assets. So long as we are making payments under the Loan Agreement, no payments under these mortgage bonds will be due. The 2023 Pollution Control Bonds were issued in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

On March 28, 2024, NorthWestern Corporation issued and sold \$175.0 million aggregate principal amount of Montana First Mortgage Bonds at a fixed interest rate of 5.56 percent maturing on March 28, 2031. These bonds were issued in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933. Proceeds were used to redeem NorthWestern Corporation's \$100.0 million of Montana First Mortgage Bonds due this year and for other general utility purposes. The bonds are secured by NorthWestern Corporation's electric and natural gas assets in Montana.

As of December 31, 2023, we were in compliance with our financial debt covenants.

Maturities of Long-Term Debt

The aggregate minimum principal maturities of long-term debt during the next five years are \$100.0 million in 2024, \$300.0 million in 2025, \$105.0 million in 2026, and \$497.7 million in 2028.

(13) Related Party Transactions

Accounts receivable from and payables to associated companies primarily include intercompany billings for direct charges, overhead, and income tax obligations. The following table reflects our accounts receivable from and accounts payable to associated companies (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Accounts Receivable from Associated Companies:		
Colstrip Unit 4	\$ 38,884	\$ —
Havre Pipeline Company, LLC	591	\$ 3,201
NorthWestern Energy Solutions, Inc.	112	16
Risk Partners Assurance, Ltd.	(88)	(74)
	<u>\$ 39,499</u>	<u>\$ 3,143</u>
Accounts Payable to Associated Companies:		
NorthWestern Services, LLC	2,082	2,045
NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc.	206	—
	<u>\$ 2,288</u>	<u>\$ 2,045</u>

(14) Income Taxes

Our effective tax rate typically differs from the federal statutory tax rate primarily due to production tax credits and the regulatory impact of flowing through the federal and state tax benefit of repairs deductions, state tax benefit of accelerated tax depreciation deductions (including bonus depreciation when applicable), and production tax credits. The regulatory accounting treatment of these deductions requires immediate income recognition for temporary tax differences of this type, which is referred to as the flow-through method. When the flow-through method of accounting for temporary differences is reflected in regulated revenues, we record deferred income taxes and establish related regulatory assets and liabilities.

The components of the net deferred income tax liability recognized in our Balance Sheets are related to the following temporary differences (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
NOL Carryforward	\$ 113,310	\$ —
Production tax credit	94,283	80,097
Pension / postretirement benefits	15,131	19,291
Customer advances	28,300	25,119
Unbilled revenue	10,604	9,440
Compensation accruals	10,716	10,306
Environmental liability	5,760	6,009
Interest rate hedges	3,280	3,372
Reserves and accruals	3,098	4,015
Other, net	5,401	6,295
Deferred Tax Asset	289,883	163,944
Excess tax depreciation	(673,172)	(462,895)
Flow through depreciation	(119,458)	(104,976)
Goodwill amortization	(91,803)	(91,746)
Regulatory assets and other	(20,246)	(58,065)
Deferred Tax Liability	(904,679)	(717,682)
Deferred Tax Liability, net	\$ (614,796)	\$ (553,738)

As of December 31, 2023, our total federal NOL carryforward was approximately \$447.8 million. Our federal NOL carryforward does not expire. Our state NOL carryforward as of December 31, 2023 was approximately \$362.1 million. If unused, our state NOL carryforwards will expire in 2033. We believe it is more likely than not that sufficient taxable income will be generated to utilize these NOL carryforwards.

At December 31, 2023, our total production tax credit carryforward was approximately \$94.3 million. If unused, our production tax credit carryforwards will expire as follows: \$1.8 million in 2035, \$10.9 million in 2036, \$11.1 million in 2037, \$10.9 million in 2038, \$11.5 million in 2039, \$13.1 million in 2040, \$11.5 million in 2041, \$13.2 million in 2042, and \$10.4 million in 2043. We believe it is more likely than not that sufficient taxable income will be generated to utilize these production tax credit carryforwards.

Uncertain Tax Positions

We recognize tax positions that meet the more-likely-than-not threshold as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement with a taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. The change in unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

	2023	2022
Unrecognized Tax Benefits at January 1	\$ 30,330	\$ 32,049
Gross increases - tax positions in prior period	—	—
Gross increases - tax positions in current period	—	—
Gross decreases - tax positions in current period	(2,256)	(1,719)
Lapse of statute of limitations	—	—
Unrecognized Tax Benefits at December 31	\$ 28,074	\$ 30,330

Our unrecognized tax benefits include approximately \$24.4 million and \$27.9 million related to tax positions as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, that if recognized, would impact our annual effective tax rate. On April 14, 2023, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued Revenue Procedure 2023-15, which provides a safe harbor method of accounting for gas repairs expenditures. During the year ended December 31, 2023, we adopted this method and decreased our total unrecognized tax benefits by \$0.5 million and recognized an income tax benefit of approximately \$3.2 million for previously unrecognized tax benefits. In the next twelve months we expect the statute of limitations to expire for certain uncertain tax benefits, which would result in a decrease to our total unrecognized tax benefits of approximately \$16.9 million.

Our policy is to recognize interest related to uncertain tax positions in interest expense. As of December 31, 2023, we have accrued \$4.5 million for the payment of interest in the Balance Sheets. As of December 31, 2022, we had \$1.4 million accrued for the payment of interest.

Tax years 2020 and forward remain subject to examination by the IRS and state taxing authorities. During the first quarter of 2023 the IRS commenced and concluded a limited scope examination of our 2019 amended federal income tax return. This examination resulted in a reduction to our previously claimed alternative minimum tax credit refund that is reflected in the table above.

(15) Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The following tables display the components of Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), after-tax, and the related tax effects (in thousands):

	December 31,					
	2023			2022		
	Before- Tax Amount	Tax Expense (Benefit)	Net-of- Tax Amount	Before- Tax Amount	Tax Expense (Benefit)	Net-of- Tax Amount
Foreign currency translation adjustment	\$ 2	\$ —	\$ 2	\$ (8)	\$ —	\$ (8)
Reclassification of net income (loss) on derivative instruments	612	(160)	452	612	(160)	452
Postretirement medical liability adjustment	(330)	69	(261)	(1,359)	377	(982)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 284	\$ (91)	\$ 193	\$ (755)	\$ 217	\$ (538)

Balances by classification included within AOCI on the Balance Sheets are as follows, net of tax (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Foreign currency translation	\$ 1,437	\$ 1,435
Derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	(7,223)	(7,675)
Postretirement medical plans	273	534
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ (5,513)	\$ (5,706)

The following table displays the changes in AOCI by component, net of tax (in thousands):

	December 31, 2023				
	Year Ended				
Affected Line Item in the Statements of Income	Interest Rate Derivative Instruments Designated as Cash Flow	Postretirement Medical Plans	Foreign Currency Translation	Total	
Beginning balance	\$ (7,675)	\$ 534	\$ 1,435	\$ (5,706)	
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications			2	2	
Amounts reclassified from AOCI	Interest on long-term debt 452			452	
Amounts reclassified from AOCI		(261)		(261)	
Net current-period other comprehensive income	452	(261)	2	193	
Ending Balance	\$ (7,223)	\$ 273	\$ 1,437	\$ (5,513)	

	December 31, 2022				
	Year Ended				
Affected Line Item in the Statements of Income	Interest Rate Derivative Instruments Designated as Cash Flow	Postretirement Medical Plans	Foreign Currency Translation	Total	
Beginning balance	\$ (8,127)	\$ 1,516	\$ 1,443	\$ (5,168)	
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications			(8)	(8)	
Amounts reclassified from AOCI	Interest on long-term debt 452			452	
Amounts reclassified from AOCI		(982)		(982)	
Net current-period other comprehensive income	452	(982)	(8)	(538)	
Ending Balance	\$ (7,675)	\$ 534	\$ 1,435	\$ (5,706)	

(16) Employee Benefit Plans

Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit Plans

We sponsor and/or contribute to pension and postretirement health care and life insurance benefit plans for eligible employees. The pension plan for our South Dakota and Nebraska employees is referred to as the NorthWestern Corporation

plan, the pension plan for our Montana employees is referred to as the NorthWestern Energy plan, and collectively they are referred to as the Plans. We utilize a number of accounting mechanisms that reduce the volatility of reported pension costs. Differences between actuarial assumptions and actual plan results are deferred and are recognized into earnings only when the accumulated differences exceed 10 percent of the greater of the projected benefit obligation or the market-related value of plan assets. If necessary, the excess is amortized over the average remaining service period of active employees. The Plans' funded status is recognized as an asset or liability in our Financial Statements. See Note 5 - Regulatory Assets and Liabilities, for further discussion on how these costs are recovered through rates charged to our customers.

Benefit Obligation and Funded Status

Following is a reconciliation of the changes in plan benefit obligations and fair value of plan assets, and a statement of the funded status (in thousands):

	<u>Pension Benefits</u>		<u>Other Postretirement Benefits</u>	
	<u>December 31,</u>		<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Change in benefit obligation:				
Obligation at beginning of period	\$ 521,798	\$ 696,802	\$ 15,407	\$ 17,308
Service cost	5,646	10,223	333	351
Interest cost	25,852	18,787	674	358
Actuarial loss	3,127	(176,389)	(1,240)	(99)
Settlements ⁽¹⁾	(51,942)	—	—	—
Benefits paid	(30,493)	(27,625)	(1,466)	(2,511)
Benefit Obligation at End of Period	\$ 473,988	\$ 521,798	\$ 13,708	\$ 15,407
Change in Fair Value of Plan Assets:				
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of period	\$ 441,539	\$ 605,499	\$ 20,055	\$ 25,289
Return on plan assets	34,367	(144,535)	3,334	(4,098)
Employer contributions	9,200	8,200	386	1,375
Settlements ⁽¹⁾	(51,942)	—	—	—
Benefits paid	(30,493)	(27,625)	(1,466)	(2,511)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	\$ 402,671	\$ 441,539	\$ 22,309	\$ 20,055
Funded Status	\$ (71,317)	\$ (80,259)	\$ 8,601	\$ 4,648
Amounts Recognized in the Balance Sheet Consist of:				
Noncurrent asset	7,875	7,195	12,378	8,831
Total Assets	7,875	7,195	12,378	8,831
Current liability	(11,200)	(11,200)	(1,355)	(1,585)
Noncurrent liability	(67,992)	(76,254)	(2,422)	(2,598)
Total Liabilities	(79,192)	(87,454)	(3,777)	(4,183)
Net amount recognized	\$ (71,317)	\$ (80,259)	\$ 8,601	\$ 4,648
Amounts Recognized in Regulatory Assets Consist of:				
Prior service credit	—	—	—	(116)
Net actuarial loss	(44,453)	(54,383)	15	(3,123)
Amounts recognized in AOCI consist of:				
Prior service cost	—	—	—	—
Net actuarial gain	—	—	590	1,046
Total	\$ (44,453)	\$ (54,383)	\$ 605	\$ (2,193)

(1) In October 2023, we entered into a group annuity contract from an insurance company to provide for the payment of pension benefits to 285 NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan participants. We purchased the contract with \$51.9 million of plan assets. The insurance company took over the payments of these benefits starting January 1, 2024. This transaction settled \$51.9 million of our NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan obligation. As a result of this transaction, during the twelve months ended December 31, 2023, we recorded a non-cash, non-operating settlement charge of \$4.4 million. This charge is recorded within operating expense, net on the Statements of Income. As discussed within Note 5 – Regulatory Assets and Liabilities, the MPSC allows recovery of pension costs on a cash funding basis. As such, this charge was deferred as a regulatory asset on the Balance Sheets, with a corresponding decrease to operating expense on the Statements of Income.

The actuarial gain/loss is primarily due to the change in discount rate assumption and actual asset returns compared with expected amounts. The total projected benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for the pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were as follows (in millions):

	NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan	
	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 427.3	\$ 474.9
Accumulated benefit obligation	427.3	474.9
Fair value of plan assets	348.1	388.7

As of December 31, 2023, the fair value of the NorthWestern Corporation pension plan assets exceed the total projected and accumulated benefit obligation and are therefore excluded from this table.

Net Periodic Cost (Credit)

The components of the net costs (credits) for our pension and other postretirement plans are as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Components of Net Periodic Benefit Cost				
Service cost	\$ 5,646	\$ 10,223	\$ 333	\$ 351
Interest cost	25,852	18,787	674	359
Expected return on plan assets	(25,932)	(24,173)	(1,096)	(1,047)
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	—	—	116	(1,891)
Recognized actuarial loss (gain)	228	383	(672)	(897)
Settlement loss recognized ⁽¹⁾	4,395	—	—	—
Net Periodic Benefit Cost (Credit)	\$ 10,189	\$ 5,220	\$ (645)	\$ (3,125)
Regulatory deferral of net periodic benefit cost ⁽²⁾	(1,814)	2,307	—	—
Previously deferred costs recognized ⁽²⁾	210	—	550	292
Amount Recognized in Income	\$ 8,585	\$ 7,527	\$ (95)	\$ (2,833)

(1) Settlement losses are related to partial annuitization of NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan effective October 24, 2023 and December 1, 2021, respectively.

(2) Net periodic benefit costs for pension and postretirement benefit plans are recognized for financial reporting based on the authorization of each regulatory jurisdiction in which we operate. A portion of these costs are recorded in regulatory assets and recognized in the Statements of Income as those costs are recovered through customer rates.

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, Service costs were recorded in Operations and maintenance expense while non-service costs were recorded in Other income, net on the Statements of Income.

For purposes of calculating the expected return on pension plan assets, the market-related value of assets is used, which is based upon fair value. The difference between actual plan asset returns and estimated plan asset returns are amortized equally over a period not to exceed five years.

Actuarial Assumptions

The measurement dates used to determine pension and other postretirement benefit measurements for the plans are December 31, 2023 and 2022. The actuarial assumptions used to compute net periodic pension cost and postretirement benefit cost are based upon information available as of the beginning of the year, specifically, market interest rates, past experience and management's best estimate of future economic conditions. Changes in these assumptions may impact future benefit costs and obligations. In computing future costs and obligations, we must make assumptions about such things as employee mortality and turnover, expected salary and wage increases, discount rate, expected return on plan assets, and expected future cost increases. Two of these assumptions have the most impact on the level of cost: (1) discount rate and (2) expected rate of return on plan assets. During 2022, the plan's actuary conducted an experience study to review five years of plan experience and update these assumptions.

On an annual basis, we set the discount rate using a yield curve analysis. This analysis includes constructing a hypothetical bond portfolio whose cash flow from coupons and maturities matches the year-by-year, projected benefit cash flow from our plans. The decrease in the discount rate during 2023 increased our projected benefit obligation by approximately \$10.5 million.

In determining the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, we review historical returns, the future expectations for returns for each asset class weighted by the target asset allocation of the pension and postretirement portfolios, and long-term inflation assumptions. Based on the target asset allocation for our pension assets and future expectations for asset returns, we increased our long term rate of return on assets assumption for NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan to 6.65 percent and increased our assumption on the NorthWestern Corporation Pension Plan to 5.15 percent for 2024.

The weighted-average assumptions used in calculating the preceding information are as follows:

	Pension Benefits		Other Postretirement Benefits	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Discount rate	4.95-5.00 %	5.20 %	4.85-4.90 %	5.15-5.20 %
Expected rate of return on assets	4.83-6.44	2.66-4.26	5.62	4.23
Long-term rate of increase in compensation levels (non-union)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Long-term rate of increase in compensation levels (union)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Interest crediting rate	3.30-6.00	3.30-6.00	N/A	N/A

The postretirement benefit obligation is calculated assuming that health care costs increase by a 5.00 percent fixed rate. The company contribution toward the premium cost is capped, therefore future health care cost trend rates are expected to have a minimal impact on company costs and the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation.

Investment Strategy

Our investment goals with respect to managing the pension and other postretirement assets are to meet current and future benefit payment needs while maximizing total investment returns (income and appreciation) after inflation within the constraints of diversification, prudent risk taking, Prudent Man Rule of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and liability-based considerations. Each plan is diversified across asset classes to achieve optimal balance between risk

and return and between income and growth through capital appreciation. Our investment philosophy is based on the following:

- Each plan should be substantially invested as long-term cash holdings reduce long-term rates of return;
- Pension Plan portfolio risk is described by volatility in the funded status of the Plans;
- It is prudent to diversify each plan across the major asset classes;
- Equity investments provide greater long-term returns than fixed income investments, although with greater short-term volatility;
- Fixed income investments of the plans should strongly correlate with the interest rate sensitivity of the plan's aggregate liabilities in order to hedge the risk of change in interest rates negatively impacting the pension plans overall funded status, (such assets will be described as Liability Hedging Fixed Income assets);
- Allocation to foreign equities increases the portfolio diversification and thereby decreases portfolio risk while providing for the potential for enhanced long-term returns;
- Private real estate and broad global opportunistic fixed income asset classes can provide diversification to both equity and liability hedging fixed income investments and that a moderate allocation to each can potentially improve the expected risk-adjusted return for the NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan investments over full market cycles;
- Active management can reduce portfolio risk and potentially add value through security selection strategies;
- A portion of plan assets should be allocated to passive, indexed management funds to provide for greater diversification and lower cost; and
- It is appropriate to retain more than one investment manager, provided that such managers offer asset class or style diversification.

Investment risk is measured and monitored on an ongoing basis through quarterly investment portfolio reviews, annual liability measurements, and periodic asset/liability studies.

The most important component of an investment strategy is the portfolio asset mix, or the allocation between the various classes of securities available. The mix of assets is based on an optimization study that identifies asset allocation targets in order to achieve the maximum return for an acceptable level of risk, while minimizing the expected contributions and pension and postretirement expense. In the optimization study, assumptions are formulated about characteristics, such as expected asset class investment returns, volatility (risk), and correlation coefficients among the various asset classes, and making adjustments to reflect future conditions expected to prevail over the study period. Based on this, the target asset allocation established, within an allowable range of plus or minus 5 percent, is as follows:

	NorthWestern Energy Pension		NorthWestern Corporation Pension		NorthWestern Energy Health and Welfare	
	December 31,		December 31,		December 31,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Fixed income securities	45.0 %	45.0 %	90.0 %	90.0 %	40.0 %	40.0 %
Non-U.S. fixed income securities	—	—	—	1.0	—	—
Opportunistic fixed income	11.0	5.5	3.0	—	—	—
Global equities	38.5	44.0	7.0	9.0	60.0	60.0
Private real estate	5.5	5.5	—	—	—	—

The actual allocation by plan is as follows:

	NorthWestern Energy Pension		NorthWestern Corporation Pension		NorthWestern Energy Health and Welfare	
	December 31,		December 31,		December 31,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	— %	— %	1.5 %	1.1 %	0.2 %	0.6 %
Fixed income securities	45.3	44.5	88.7	88.6	35.1	36.7
Non-U.S. fixed income securities	—	—	—	0.9	—	—
Opportunistic fixed income	10.6	5.5	2.9	—	—	—
Global equities	37.6	43.4	6.9	9.4	64.7	62.7
Private real estate	6.5 %	6.6 %	— %	— %	— %	— %
	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %

Generally, the asset mix will be rebalanced to the target mix as individual portfolios approach their minimum or maximum levels. The guidelines allow for a transition to targets over time as assets are reallocated to newly-approved asset classes of opportunistic fixed income and private real estate. Debt securities consist of U.S. and international instruments including emerging markets and high yield instruments, as well as government, corporate, asset backed and mortgage backed securities. While the portfolio may invest in high yield securities, the average quality must be rated at least "investment grade" by rating agencies. Equity, real estate and fixed income portfolios may be comprised of both active and passive management strategies. Performance of fixed income investments is measured by both traditional investment benchmarks as well as relative changes in the present value of the plan's liabilities. Equity investments consist primarily of U.S. stocks including large, mid and small cap stocks. We also invest in global equities with exposure to developing and emerging markets. Equity investments may also be diversified across investment styles such as growth and value. Derivatives, options and futures are permitted for the purpose of reducing risk but may not be used for speculative purposes. Real estate investments will consist of global equity or debt interests in tangible property consisting of land, buildings, and other improvements in commercial and residential sectors.

Our plan assets are primarily invested in common collective trusts (CCTs), which are invested in equity and fixed income securities. In accordance with our investment policy, these pooled investment funds must have an adequate asset base relative to their asset class and be invested in a diversified manner and have a minimum of three years of verified investment performance experience or verified portfolio manager investment experience in a particular investment strategy and have management and oversight by an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Investments in a collective investment vehicle are valued by multiplying the investee company's net asset value per share with the number of units or shares owned at the valuation date. Net asset value per share is determined by the trustee. Investments held by the CCT, including collateral invested for securities on loan, are valued on the basis of valuations furnished by a pricing service approved by the CCT's investment manager, which determines valuations using methods based on quoted closing market prices on national securities exchanges, or at fair value as determined in good faith by the CCT's investment manager if applicable. The funds do not contain any redemption restrictions. The direct holding of NorthWestern Energy Group stock is not permitted; however, any holding in a diversified mutual fund or collective investment fund is permitted.

Cash Flows

In accordance with the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), and the relief provisions of the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (WRERA), we are required to meet minimum funding levels in order to avoid required contributions and benefit restrictions. We have elected to use asset smoothing provided by the WRERA, which allows the use of asset averaging, including expected returns (subject to certain limitations), for a 24-month period in the determination of

funding requirements. Additional funding relief was passed in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, providing for longer amortization and interest rate smoothing, which we elected to use. We expect to continue to make contributions to the pension plans in 2024 and future years that reflect the minimum requirements and discretionary amounts consistent with the amounts recovered in rates. Additional legislative or regulatory measures, as well as fluctuations in financial market conditions, may impact our funding requirements.

Due to the regulatory treatment of pension costs in Montana, pension costs for 2023 and 2022 were based on actual contributions to the plan. Annual contributions to each of the pension plans are as follows (in thousands):

	2023	2022
NorthWestern Energy Pension Plan (MT)	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000
NorthWestern Corporation Pension Plan (SD and NE)	1,200	1,200
	<u>\$ 9,200</u>	<u>\$ 8,200</u>

We estimate the plans will make future benefit payments to participants as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits	Other Postretirement Benefits
2024	\$ 27,553	\$ 2,149
2025	28,987	1,813
2026	29,920	1,406
2027	30,545	1,251
2028	31,231	1,210
2029-2032	164,362	5,288

Defined Contribution Plan

Our defined contribution plan permits employees to defer receipt of compensation as provided in Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under the plan, employees may elect to direct a percentage of their gross compensation to be contributed to the plan. We contribute various percentage amounts of the employee's gross compensation contributed to the plan. Matching contributions for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 were \$13.2 million and \$12.3 million, respectively.

(17) Stock-Based Compensation

We grant stock-based awards through our Amended and Restated Equity Compensation Plan (ECP), which includes restricted stock awards and performance share awards. These stock-based awards are for the common stock of NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. As part of effectuating the holding company reorganization, all outstanding and unexercised, unvested and not yet paid or payable stock-based awards were converted into a right to acquire NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. capital stock of the same class and with the same rights and privileges relative to the stock-based award prior to the merger. See Note 1 - Nature of Operations for further information regarding the holding company effectuation in 2023.

As of December 31, 2023, there were 649,884 shares of common stock remaining available for grants. The remaining vesting period for awards previously granted ranges from one to four years if the service and/or performance requirements are met. Nonvested shares do not receive dividend distributions. The long-term incentive plan provides for accelerated vesting in the event of a change in control.

We account for our share-based compensation arrangements by recognizing compensation costs for all share-based awards over the respective service period for employee services received in exchange for an award of equity or equity-based compensation. The compensation cost is based on the fair value of the grant on the date it was awarded.

Performance Unit Awards

Performance unit awards are granted annually under the ECP. These awards vest at the end of the three-year performance period if we have achieved certain performance goals and the individual remains employed by us. The exact number of shares issued will vary from 0 percent to 200 percent of the target award, depending on actual company performance relative to the performance goals. Beginning in 2023, these awards contain service-, market-, and performance-based components. The service-based component of these awards, representing 30 percent of the award, vest at the end of the three-year performance period as long as the individual has remained employed with us over that term. The performance goals are independent of each other and equally weighted at 35 percent of the award, and are based on two metrics: (i) EPS growth level and average return on equity; and (ii) total shareholder return relative to a peer group. Performance unit awards issued prior to 2023 included both the market- and performance-based components discussed above.

Fair value is determined for each component of the performance unit awards. The fair value of the service-based component is estimated based upon the closing market price of our common stock as of the grant date less the present value of expected dividends. The fair value of the performance-based component is estimated based upon the closing market price of our common stock as of the grant date less the present value of expected dividends, multiplied by an estimated performance multiple determined on the basis of historical experience, which is subsequently trued up at vesting based on actual performance. The fair value of the market-based component is estimated using a statistical model that incorporates the probability of meeting performance targets based on historical returns relative to the peer group. The following summarizes the significant assumptions used to determine the fair value of performance shares and related compensation expense as well as the resulting estimated fair value of performance shares granted:

	2023	2022
Risk-free interest rate	4.33 %	1.82 %
Expected life, in years	3	3
Expected volatility	30.4% to 41.0%	28.2% to 38.8%
Dividend yield	4.4 %	4.5 %

The risk-free interest rate was based on the U.S. Treasury yield of a three-year bond at the time of grant. The expected term of the performance shares is three years based on the performance cycle. Expected volatility was based on the historical volatility for the peer group. Both performance goals are measured over the three-year vesting period and are charged to compensation expense over the vesting period based on the number of shares expected to vest.

A summary of nonvested shares as of and changes during the year ended December 31, 2023, are as follows:

	Performance Unit Awards	
	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date
Beginning nonvested grants	194,407	\$ 51.04
Granted	95,853	54.41
Vested	(87,300)	50.53
Forfeited	(49,176)	51.59
Remaining nonvested grants	153,784	\$ 53.26

Retirement/Retention Restricted Share Awards

In December 2011, an executive retirement / retention program was established that provides for the annual grant of restricted share units. Awards granted before 2022 are subject to a five-year performance and vesting period. The performance measure for these awards requires net income for the calendar year of at least three of the five full calendar years during the performance period to exceed net income for the calendar year the awards are granted. Awards granted in 2022 no longer contain this performance measure, instead these awards will vest after five full calendar years if the employee remains employed during that service period. No retirement/retention restricted shares were granted during the year ended December 31, 2023. Once vested, the awards will be paid out in shares of common stock in five equal annual installments after a recipient has separated from service. The fair value of these awards is measured based upon the closing market price of our common stock as of the grant date less the present value of expected dividends.

A summary of nonvested shares as of and changes during the year ended December 31, 2023, are as follows:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant-Date
	Beginning nonvested grants	99,285
Granted	—	—
Vested	—	—
Forfeited	(38,506)	49.73
Remaining nonvested grants	60,779	\$ 47.91

We recognized total stock-based compensation expense of \$3.6 million and \$4.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and related income tax benefit of \$(1.0) million and \$(1.3) million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. As of December 31, 2023, we had \$6.5 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to the nonvested portion of our outstanding awards. The cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2 years. The total fair value of shares vested was \$4.4 million and \$4.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

(18) Common Stock

We have 250,000,000 shares authorized consisting of 200,000,000 shares of common stock with a \$0.01 par value and 50,000,000 shares of preferred stock with a \$0.01 par value.

Repurchase of Common Stock

Shares tendered by employees to us to satisfy the employees' tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock awards totaled 4,167 and 16,120 during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and are reflected in reacquired capital. These shares were credited to reacquired capital based on their fair market value on the vesting date.

Issuance of Common Stock

In April 2021, NorthWestern Corporation entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement pursuant to which we could offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time, having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$200.0 million, through an At-the-Market (ATM) offering program. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2023, NorthWestern Corporation issued 1,432,738 shares of our common stock under the ATM program at an average price of \$52.02, for net proceeds of \$73.6 million, which is net of sales commissions and other fees paid of approximately \$0.9 million. We have completed the ATM offering program under this Equity Distribution Agreement.

(19) Commitments and Contingencies

Qualifying Facilities Liability

Our QF liability primarily consists of unrecoverable costs associated with three contracts covered under the Public Utility Regulatory Practices Act (PURPA). These contracts require us to purchase minimum amounts of energy at prices ranging from \$67 to \$136 per MWH through 2029. As of December 31, 2023, our estimated gross contractual obligation related to these contracts was approximately \$303.1 million through 2029. A portion of the costs incurred to purchase this energy is recoverable through rates, totaling approximately \$266.5 million through 2029. As contractual obligations are settled, the related purchases and sales are recorded within operating expense and operating revenues in our Statements of Income. The present value of the remaining liability is recorded in Accumulated miscellaneous operating provisions in our Balance Sheets. The following summarizes the change in the liability (in thousands):

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning QF liability	\$ 49,728	\$ 64,943
Settlements ⁽¹⁾	(24,707)	(20,076)
Interest on long-term debt	3,649	4,861
Ending QF liability	\$ 28,670	\$ 49,728

(1) The primary components of the change in settlement amounts includes (i) a lower periodic adjustment of \$4.2 million due to actual price escalation, which was less than previously modeled; and (ii) higher costs of approximately \$1.0 million, due to a \$0.8 million reduction in costs for the adjustment to actual output and pricing for the current contract year as compared with a \$1.8 million reduction in costs in the prior period.

The following summarizes the estimated gross contractual obligation less amounts recoverable through rates (in thousands):

	Gross Obligation	Recoverable Amounts	Net
2023	\$ 74,110	\$ 60,706	\$ 13,404
2024	60,360	52,950	7,410
2025	55,393	46,274	9,119
2026	56,665	46,668	9,997
2027	42,400	41,664	736
Thereafter	14,134	18,231	(4,097)
Total⁽¹⁾	\$ 303,062	\$ 266,493	\$ 36,569

(1) This net unrecoverable amount represents the undiscounted difference between the total gross obligations and recoverable amounts. The ending QF liability in the table above represents the present value of this net unrecoverable amount.

Long Term Supply and Capacity Purchase Obligations

We have entered into various commitments, largely purchased power, electric transmission, coal and natural gas supply and natural gas transportation contracts. These commitments range from one to 24 years. Costs incurred under these contracts are included in Operating expense in the Statements of Income and were approximately \$340.0 million and \$328.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. As of December 31, 2023, our commitments under these contracts were \$321.9 million in 2024, \$244.1 million in 2025, \$263.4 million in 2026, \$243.6 million in 2027, \$225.9 million in 2028, and \$1.5 billion thereafter. These commitments are not reflected in our Financial Statements.

Hydroelectric License Commitments

With the 2014 purchase of hydroelectric generating facilities and associated assets located in Montana, we assumed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) existing with state, federal and private entities. The MOUs are periodically updated and renewed and require us to implement plans to mitigate the impact of the projects on fish, wildlife and their habitats, and to increase recreational opportunities. The MOUs were created to maximize collaboration between the parties and enhance the possibility to receive matching funds from relevant federal agencies. Under these MOUs, we have a remaining commitment to spend approximately \$22.4 million between 2024 and 2040. These commitments are not reflected in our Financial Statements.

ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES AND REGULATION

Environmental Matters

The operation of electric generating, transmission and distribution facilities, and gas gathering, storage, transportation and distribution facilities, along with the development (involving site selection, environmental assessments, and permitting) and construction of these assets, are subject to extensive federal, state, and local environmental and land use laws and regulations. Our activities involve compliance with diverse laws and regulations that address emissions and impacts to the environment, including air and water, protection of natural resources, avian and wildlife. We monitor federal, state, and local environmental initiatives to determine potential impacts on our financial results. As new laws or regulations are implemented,

our policy is to assess their applicability and implement the necessary modifications to our facilities or their operation to maintain ongoing compliance.

Our environmental exposure includes a number of components, including remediation expenses related to the cleanup of current or former properties, and costs to comply with changing environmental regulations related to our operations. At present, our environmental reserve, which relates primarily to the remediation of former manufactured gas plant sites owned by us or for which we are responsible, is estimated to range between \$21.0 million to \$31.4 million. As of December 31, 2023, we had a reserve of approximately \$25.3 million, which has not been discounted. Environmental costs are recorded when it is probable we are liable for the remediation and we can reasonably estimate the liability. We use a combination of site investigations and monitoring to formulate an estimate of environmental remediation costs for specific sites. Our monitoring procedures and development of actual remediation plans depend not only on site specific information but also on coordination with the different environmental regulatory agencies in our respective jurisdictions; therefore, while remediation exposure exists, it may be many years before costs are incurred.

The following summarizes the change in our environmental liability (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2023	2022
Liability at January 1,	\$ 26,367	\$ 26,866
Deductions	(2,520)	(2,033)
Charged to costs and expense	1,439	1,534
Liability at December 31,	<u>\$ 25,285</u>	<u>\$ 26,367</u>

Over time, as costs become determinable, we may seek authorization to recover such costs in rates or seek insurance reimbursement as available and applicable; therefore, although we cannot guarantee regulatory recovery, we do not expect these costs to have a material effect on our financial position or results of operations.

Manufactured Gas Plants - Approximately \$19.8 million of our environmental reserve accrual is related to the following manufactured gas plants.

South Dakota - A formerly operated manufactured gas plant located in Aberdeen, South Dakota, has been identified on the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System list as contaminated with coal tar residue. We are currently conducting feasibility studies, implementing remedial actions pursuant to work plans approved by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and conducting ongoing monitoring and operation and maintenance activities. As of December 31, 2023, the reserve for remediation costs at this site was approximately \$8.0 million, and we estimate that approximately \$2.9 million of this amount will be incurred through 2028.

Nebraska - We own sites in North Platte, Kearney, and Grand Island, Nebraska on which former manufactured gas facilities were located. We are currently working independently to fully characterize the nature and extent of potential impacts associated with these Nebraska sites. Our reserve estimate includes assumptions for site assessment and remedial action work. At present, we cannot determine with a reasonable degree of certainty the nature and timing of any risk-based remedial action at our Nebraska locations.

Montana - We own or have responsibility for sites in Butte, Missoula, and Helena, Montana on which former manufactured gas plants were located. The Butte and Helena sites, both listed as high priority sites on Montana's state superfund list, were placed into the MDEQ voluntary remediation program for cleanup due to soil and groundwater impacts.

Soil and coal tar were removed at the sites in accordance with the MDEQ requirements. Groundwater monitoring is conducted semiannually at both sites. At this time, we cannot estimate with a reasonable degree of certainty the nature and timing of additional remedial actions and/or investigations, if any, at the Butte site.

In August 2016, the MDEQ sent us a Notice of Potential Liability and Request for Remedial Action regarding the Helena site. In October 2019, we submitted a third revised Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) for the Helena site addressing MDEQ comments. The MDEQ approved the RIWP in March 2020 and field work was completed in 2022. We submitted a Remedial Investigation Report (RI Report) summarizing the work completed to MDEQ in March 2022 and are awaiting its review and comments as to any additional field work. We now expect the MDEQ review of the RI Report to be concluded in 2024, and any additional field work to commence following that.

MDEQ has indicated it expects to proceed in listing the Missoula site as a Montana superfund site. After researching historical ownership, we have identified another potentially responsible party with whom we have entered into an agreement allocating third-party costs to be incurred in addressing the site. The other party has assumed the lead role at the site and has expressed its intention to submit a voluntary remediation plan for the Missoula site to MDEQ. At this time, we cannot estimate with a reasonable degree of certainty the nature and timing of risk-based remedial action, if any, at the Missoula site.

Global Climate Change - National and international actions have been initiated to address global climate change and the contribution of GHG including, most significantly, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane emissions from natural gas. These actions include legislative proposals, Executive, Congressional and EPA actions at the federal level, state level activity, investor activism and private party litigation relating to emissions. Coal-fired plants have come under particular scrutiny due to their level of emissions. We have joint ownership interests in four coal-fired electric generating plants, all of which are operated by other companies. We are responsible for our proportionate share of the capital and operating costs while being entitled to our proportionate share of the power generated.

Proposed EPA Rules - Congress has not passed any federal climate change legislation directly regarding GHG emissions from coal fired plants, and we cannot predict the timing or form of any potential legislation. However, Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) confers authority on EPA and the states to regulate emissions, including GHGs, from existing stationary sources. In May 2023, EPA proposed new GHG emissions standards for coal and natural gas-fired plants. In particular, the proposed rules would (i) strengthen the current New Source Performance Standards for newly built fossil fuel-fired stationary combustion turbines (generally natural gas-fired); (ii) establish emission guidelines for states to follow in limiting carbon pollution from existing fossil fuel-fired steam generating electric generating units (including coal, oil and natural gas-fired units); and (iii) establish emission guidelines for large, frequently used existing fossil fuel-fired stationary combustion turbines (generally natural gas-fired). In addition, in April 2023, EPA proposed to amend the Mercury Air Toxics Standard (MATS). Among other things, MATS currently sets stringent emission limits for acid gases, mercury, and other hazardous air pollutants from new and existing electric generating units. We are in compliance with existing MATS requirements. The proposed amendment of the MATS would strengthen the MATS requirements, and if adopted as written, both the GHG and MATS proposed rules could have a material negative impact on our coal-fired plants, including requiring potentially expensive upgrades or the early retirement of Colstrip Unit's 3 and 4 due to the rules making the facility uneconomic. On April 25, 2024, the EPA released final rules related to GHG emission standards (GHG Rules) for existing coal-fired facilities and new coal and natural gas-fired facilities as well as final rules strengthening the MATS requirements (MATS Rules). The final MATS and GHG Rules will require compliance as early as 2028 and 2032, respectively. We are evaluating how the final MATS and GHG Rules may impact our coal-fired generation facilities and operations.

Previous efforts by the EPA were met with extensive litigation and we anticipate a similar response if the proposed rules are adopted. As MATS and GHG regulations are implemented, it could result in additional material compliance costs. We will continue working with federal and state regulatory authorities, other utilities, and stakeholders to seek relief from any MATS or GHG regulations that, in our view, disproportionately impact customers in our region.

Future additional environmental requirements - federal or state - could cause us to incur material costs of compliance, increase our costs of procuring electricity, decrease transmission revenue and impact cost recovery. Technology to efficiently capture, remove and/or sequester such GHG emissions or hazardous air pollutants may not be available within a timeframe consistent with the implementation of any such requirements.

Regional Haze Rules - In January 2017, the EPA published amendments to the requirements under the CAA for state plans for protection of visibility - regional haze rules. Among other things, these amendments revised the process and requirements for the state implementation plans and extended the due date for the next periodic comprehensive regional haze state implementation plan revisions from 2018 to 2021.

The states of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota have developed and submitted to the EPA, for its approval, their respective State Implementation Plans (SIP) for Regional Haze compliance. While these states, among others, did not meet the EPA's July 31, 2021 submission deadline, they were all submitted in 2022. The Montana SIP as drafted and submitted to EPA does not call for additional controls for our interest in Colstrip Unit 4. The draft North Dakota SIP does not require any additional controls at the Coyote generating facility. Similarly, the draft South Dakota SIP does not require any additional controls at the Big Stone generating facility. Until these SIPs are finalized and approved by EPA, the potential remains that installation of additional emissions controls might be required at these facilities.

Jointly Owned Plants - We have joint ownership in generation plants located in South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Montana that are or may become subject to the various regulations discussed above that have been or may be issued or proposed.

Other - We continue to manage equipment containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oil in accordance with the EPA's Toxic Substance Control Act regulations. We will continue to use certain PCB-contaminated equipment for its remaining useful life and will, thereafter, dispose of the equipment according to pertinent regulations that govern the use and disposal of such equipment.

We routinely engage the services of a third-party environmental consulting firm to assist in performing a comprehensive evaluation of our environmental reserve. Based upon information available at this time, we believe that the current environmental reserve properly reflects our remediation exposure for the sites currently and previously owned by us. The portion of our environmental reserve applicable to site remediation may be subject to change as a result of the following uncertainties:

- We may not know all sites for which we are alleged or will be found to be responsible for remediation; and
- Absent performance of certain testing at sites where we have been identified as responsible for remediation, we cannot estimate with a reasonable degree of certainty the total costs of remediation.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

State of Montana - Riverbed Rents

On April 1, 2016, the State of Montana (State) filed a complaint on remand (the State's Complaint) with the Montana First Judicial District Court (State District Court), naming us, along with Talen Montana, LLC (Talen) as defendants. The State claimed it owns the riverbeds underlying 10 of our, and formerly Talen's, hydroelectric facilities (dams, along with reservoirs and tailraces) on the Missouri, Madison and Clark Fork Rivers, and seeks rents for Talen's and our use and

occupancy of such lands. The facilities at issue include the Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan, and Morony facilities on the Missouri and Madison Rivers and the Thompson Falls facility on the Clark Fork River. We acquired these facilities from Talen in November 2014.

The litigation has a long prior history in state and federal court, including before the United States Supreme Court, as detailed in Note 18 - Commitments and Contingencies to the financial statements included in the NorthWestern Energy Group Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. On April 20, 2016, we removed the case from State District Court to the United States District Court for the District of Montana (Federal District Court). On August 1, 2018, the Federal District Court granted our and Talen's motions to dismiss the State's Complaint as it pertains to the navigability of the riverbeds associated with four of our hydroelectric facilities near Great Falls. A bench trial before the Federal District Court commenced January 4, 2022, and concluded on January 18, 2022, which addressed the issue of navigability concerning our other six facilities. On August 25, 2023, the Federal District Court issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (the "Order"), which found all but one of the segments of the riverbeds in dispute not navigable, and thus not owned by the State of Montana. The one segment found navigable, and thus owned by the State, was the segment on which the Black Eagle development was located. The State filed a motion to pursue an interlocutory appeal of the Order, and on January 2, 2024, the Federal District Court certified the Order for appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Briefing in the appeal is underway. Damages were bifurcated by agreement and will be tried separately for the Black Eagle segment, and any other segments found navigable should the State prevail on appeal.

We dispute the State's claims and intend to continue to vigorously defend the lawsuit. If the Federal District Court calculates damages as the State District Court did in 2008, we do not anticipate the resulting annual rent for the Black Eagle segment would have a material impact to our financial position or results of operations. We anticipate that any obligation to pay the State rent for use and occupancy of the riverbeds would be recoverable in rates from customers, although there can be no assurances that the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) would approve any such recovery.

Colstrip Arbitration

The remaining depreciable life of our investment in Colstrip Unit 4 is through 2042. The six owners of Colstrip Units 3 and 4 currently share the operating costs pursuant to the terms of an Ownership and Operation Agreement (O&O Agreement). However, several of the owners are mandated by Washington and Oregon law to eliminate coal-fired resources in 2025 and 2029, respectively.

As a result of the mandate, the owners have disagreed on various operational funding decisions, including whether closure requires each owner's consent under the O&O Agreement. On March 12, 2021, we initiated an arbitration under the O&O Agreement (the "Arbitration"), to resolve the issues of whether closure requires each owner's consent and to clarify each owner's obligations to continue to fund operations until all joint owners agree on closure. The owners previously agreed to stay the Arbitration in an effort to work out a global resolution to the dispute, but that stay has now expired. The parties were not able to agree to continue the stay, and are presently in the process of identifying and retaining an arbitrator (or arbitrators) and are proceeding with the Arbitration.

Colstrip Coal Dust Litigation

On December 14, 2020, a claim was filed against Talen in the Montana Sixteenth Judicial District Court, Rosebud County, Cause No. CV-20-58. Talen is one of the co-owners of Colstrip Unit 3, and the operator of Units 3 and 4. The plaintiffs allege they have suffered adverse effects from coal dust generated during operations associated with Colstrip. On August 26, 2021, the claim was amended to add in excess of 100 plaintiffs. It also added NorthWestern, the other owners of Colstrip, and Westmoreland Rosebud Mining LLC, as defendants. Plaintiffs are seeking economic damages, costs and disbursements, punitive damages, attorneys' fees, and an injunction prohibiting defendants from allowing coal dust to blow onto plaintiffs' properties. Since this lawsuit remains in its discovery stages, we are unable to predict outcomes. We continue to evaluate a range of reasonably possible losses.

BNSF Demands for Indemnity and Remediation Costs

NorthWestern has received a demand for indemnity from BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) for past and future environmental investigation and remediation costs incurred by BNSF at one of the three operable units at the Anaconda Copper Mining (ACM) Smelter and Refinery Superfund Site, located near Great Falls, Montana. Smelter and refining operations at the site commenced in 1893 and continued until 1980.

NorthWestern owns property in the Railroad Corridor sub-section of Operable Unit 1. BNSF claims it is entitled to indemnity and contribution from NorthWestern for the costs it has and will incur to investigate and remediate contamination in Operable Unit 1. NorthWestern and BNSF have settled the majority of the dispute for a non-material sum. Any potential remaining claims are not expected to be material.

Yellowstone County Generating Station Air Permit

On October 21, 2021, the Montana Environmental Information Center and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in Montana State District Court, against the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and NorthWestern, alleging that the environmental analysis conducted by MDEQ prior to issuance of the Yellowstone County Generating Station's air quality construction permit was inadequate. On April 4, 2023, the Montana District Court issued an order finding MDEQ's environmental analysis was deficient in not addressing exterior lighting and greenhouse gases and remanded it back to MDEQ to address the deficiencies and vacated the air quality permit pending that remand. As a result of the vacatur of the permit, we paused construction. On June 8, 2023, the Montana District Court granted our motion to stay the order vacating the air quality permit pending the outcome of our appeal to the Montana Supreme Court. Oral argument is presently scheduled for May 15, 2024, and a determination of the appeal will follow. We recommenced construction in June 2023 and expect the plant to be operational by the end of the third quarter 2024. The ultimate resolution of the lawsuit challenging the Yellowstone County Generating Station air quality permit could impact our ability to operate the facility and increase costs.

During the litigation of the air permit, Montana House Bill 971 was signed into law, preventing the MDEQ from, except under certain exceptions, evaluating greenhouse gas emissions and corresponding impacts to the climate in environmental reviews of large projects such as coal mines and power plants. On June 1, 2023, the MDEQ issued its draft supplemental environmental assessment that contained the updated exterior lighting analysis, and the MDEQ indicated that no other analysis was necessary. The comment period concerning the MDEQ's draft supplemental environmental assessment ended on July 3, 2023. On August 4, 2023, the Montana First Judicial District Court in *Held v. State of Montana*, a separate case by Montana youths alleging climate damages, issued its order finding House Bill 971 unconstitutional delaying the issuance of the revised Yellowstone County Generating Station's air permit. The Montana Supreme Court granted NorthWestern permission to participate as amicus in the *Held* appeal. The outcome of the *Held* case could pose additional delays and costs for the Yellowstone County Generating Station.

Other Legal Proceedings

We are also subject to various other legal proceedings, governmental audits and claims that arise in the ordinary course of business. In our opinion, the amount of ultimate liability with respect to these other actions will not materially affect our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Sch. 19 MONTANA PLANT IN SERVICE - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)				
	Account Number & Title	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1	Intangible Plant			
2	2301 Organization	\$12,873	\$12,873	0.00%
3	2302 Franchises and Consents	114,169	114,169	0.00%
4	2303 Miscellaneous Intangible Plant	1,900,998	22	>300.00%
5	Total Intangible Plant	2,028,040	127,064	>300.00%
6				
7	Production Plant			
8	2325 Gas Leaseholds	74,904,745	74,901,829	0.00%
9	2327 Field Compressor Structure	64,803	64,803	0.00%
10	2328 Field Mea & Reg Structure	642,881	642,881	0.00%
11	2330 Well Construction	4,825,284	4,825,073	0.00%
12	2331 Well Equipment	5,274,776	5,259,303	0.29%
13	2332 Field Lines	2,577,700	2,581,940	-0.16%
14	2333 Field Compressor Equipment	1,555,808	1,555,808	0.00%
15	2334 Measuring & Regulating Equip.	2,197,688	2,141,030	2.65%
16	2337 Other Equipment	66,732	63,672	4.81%
17	Total Production Plant	92,110,416	92,036,339	0.08%
18				
19	Underground Storage Plant			
20	2350 Land and Land Rights	4,943,533	4,943,533	0.00%
21	2351 Structures and Improvements	3,309,706	3,308,792	0.03%
22	2352 Wells	10,672,122	10,422,298	2.40%
23	2353 Lines	15,338,784	15,282,203	0.37%
24	2354 Compressor Station Equipment	13,770,583	13,777,187	-0.05%
25	2355 Measuring & Regulating Equip.	2,984,352	2,984,352	0.00%
26	2356 Purification Equipment	598,376	567,763	5.39%
27	2357 Other Equipment	1,312,306	1,296,312	1.23%
28	Total Underground Storage Plant	52,929,762	52,582,440	0.66%
29				
30	Transmission Plant			
31	2365 Rights of Way	23,282,958	12,948,523	79.81%
32	2366 Structures and Improvements	20,912,212	20,299,947	3.02%
33	2367 Mains	375,007,167	307,437,430	21.98%
34	2368 Compressor Station Equipment	63,312,513	56,533,615	11.99%
35	2369 Meas. & Reg. Station Equipment	35,389,708	31,458,243	12.50%
36	2370 Communication Equipment	-	-	-
37	2371 Other Equipment	858,893	936,906	-8.33%
38	Total Transmission Plant	518,763,452	429,614,664	20.75%
39				
40	Distribution Plant			
41	2374 Land and Land Rights	1,305,740	1,306,740	-0.08%
42	2375 Structures and Improvements	537,594	337,278	59.39%
43	2376 Mains	256,290,131	241,534,998	6.11%
44	2377 Compressor Station Equipment	-	-	-
45	2378 M&R Station Equip.-General	5,022,347	4,974,029	0.97%
46	2379 M&R Station Equip.-City Gate	-	-	-
47	2380 Services	114,612,617	107,201,461	6.91%
48	2381 Customers Meters and Regulators	97,719,689	91,531,086	6.76%
49	2382 Meter Installations	-	-	-
50	2383 House Regulators	-	-	-
51	2384 House Regulator Installations	-	-	-
52	2385 M&R Station Equip.-Industrial	103,320	103,320	0.00%
53	2386 Other Prop. on Customers' Premises	-	-	-
54	2387 Other Equipment	86,720	86,720	0.00%
55	Total Distribution Plant	475,678,159	447,075,632	6.40%

Sch. 19	cont. MONTANA PLANT IN SERVICE - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)			
	Account Number & Title	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1				
2	General Plant			
3	2389 Land and Land Rights	101,675	101,675	0.00%
4	2390 Structures and Improvements	2,480,751	2,480,751	0.00%
5	2391 Office Furniture and Equipment	196,013	134,729	45.49%
6	2392 Transportation Equipment	19,346,359	17,393,871	11.23%
7	2393 Stores Equipment	205,609	208,654	-1.46%
8	2394 Tools, Shop & Garage Equipment	7,464,771	7,390,549	1.00%
9	2395 Laboratory Equipment	360,957	360,957	0.00%
10	2396 Power Operated Equipment	5,792,181	5,530,785	4.73%
11	2397 Communication Equipment	2,913,666	2,989,904	-2.55%
12	2398 Miscellaneous Equipment	54,006	108,495	-50.22%
13	2399 Other Tangible Property	-	-	-
14	Total General Plant	38,915,988	36,700,370	6.04%
15	Total Gas Plant in Service	1,180,425,818	1,058,136,509	11.56%
16				
17	4101 Gas Plant Allocated from Common	60,472,293	60,719,777	-0.41%
18	2105 Gas Plant Held for Future Use	29,866	29,866	0.00%
19	2107 Gas Construction Work in Progress	24,056,885	25,234,216	-4.67%
20	2117 Gas in Underground Storage	50,275,607	57,931,594	-13.22%
21				
22				
23	TOTAL GAS PLANT	1,315,260,468	1,202,051,962	9.42%
24				
25				
26	CONSOLIDATED	December 31,		
27	PLANT IN SERVICE	2023	2022	
28				
29	Montana Electric	\$ 4,702,506,244	\$ 4,478,577,275	
30	Yellowstone National Park	23,530,558	23,181,889	
31	Montana Natural Gas (Includes CMP)	1,180,425,818	1,058,136,509	
32	Common	193,279,118	191,541,317	
33	Townsend Propane	1,547,776	1,528,962	
34	South Dakota Electric	1,115,119,868	1,084,736,554	
35	South Dakota Natural Gas	262,937,110	248,923,029	
36	South Dakota Common	71,074,956	72,289,882	
37	Asset Retirement Obligation	35,151,999	34,815,008	
38	TOTAL PLANT	\$ 7,585,573,447	\$ 7,193,730,425	

Sch. 20	MONTANA DEPRECIATION SUMMARY - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)				
	Functional Plant Class	Montana Plant Cost	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	Current Avg. Rate
1	Accumulated Depreciation				
2					
3	Production and Gathering	92,110,416	\$54,330,009	\$50,696,713	5.36%
4					
5	Underground Storage	52,929,762	27,921,582	27,125,825	1.67%
6					
7	Other Storage	-	-	-	-
8					
9	Transmission	518,763,452	144,293,208	138,614,945	1.73%
10					
11	Distribution	475,678,159	180,302,830	170,692,999	2.67%
12					
13	General and Intangible	40,944,029	28,756,081	27,561,750	8.94%
14					
15	Common	60,472,293	18,627,225	17,649,698	5.57%
16					
17					
18	Total Accum Depreciation	\$1,240,898,111	\$454,230,934	\$432,341,930	2.82%
19					
20					
21					
22	Consolidated		December 31,		
23	Accumulated Depreciation		2023	2022	
24					
25	Montana Electric		\$1,739,696,987	\$1,701,596,081	
26	Yellowstone National Park		\$12,038,251	11,497,472	
27	Montana Natural Gas (Includes CMP)		435,603,710	414,692,232	
28	Common		53,580,007	49,925,576	
29	Townsend Propane		1,127,274	1,087,518	
30	South Dakota Electric		384,514,178	361,933,145	
31	South Dakota Natural Gas		113,554,633	108,399,684	
32	South Dakota Common		21,556,118	22,856,513	
33	Acquisition Writedown		35,163,173	37,867,662	
34	Basin Creek Capital Lease		35,183,325	33,172,848	
35	FIN 47		2,093,317	1,451,661	
36	CWIP-Capital Retirement Clearing		-16,877,317	-10,305,356	
37	Total Consolidated Accum Depreciation		\$2,817,233,655	\$2,734,175,036	

Sch. 21	MONTANA MATERIALS & SUPPLIES (ASSIGNED & ALLOCATED) - NATURAL GAS			
	Account Number & Title	This Year Montana	Last Year Montana	% Change
1				
2	154 Plant Materials & Operating Supplies			
3	Assigned and Allocated to:			
4	Operation & Maintenance	-	-	-
5	Construction	-	-	-
6	Storage Plant	\$ 370,542	\$ 383,027	-3.26%
7	Transmission Plant	2,482,431	2,575,596	-3.62%
8	Distribution Plant	6,663,249	5,954,848	11.90%
9				
10	Total MT Materials and Supplies	\$9,516,222	\$8,913,471	6.76%
11				
12				
13	Consolidated	December 31,		
14	Materials and Supplies	2023	2022	
15				
16	Montana Natural Gas	\$9,516,222	\$8,913,471	
17	Montana Electric	56,282,931	44,380,570	
18	South Dakota	19,455,340	17,860,206	
19				
20	Total Consolidated Materials and Supplies	\$85,254,493	\$71,154,247	

Sch. 22	MONTANA REGULATORY CAPITAL STRUCTURE & COSTS - NATURAL GAS			
	Commission Accepted - Most Recent	% Capital Structure	% Cost Rate	Weighted Cost
1				
2	Docket Number: D2022.07.078			
3	Order Number : 7860y			
4	Effective Date : November 1, 2023			
5				
6	Common Equity	48.02%	9.55%	4.59%
7	Long Term Debt	51.98%	4.01%	2.08%
8				
9	TOTAL	100.00%		6.67%
10				
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Sch. 23	STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS			
	Description	This year	Last Year	% Change
1	Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents:			
2	Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
3	Net Income	\$ 194,131,555	\$ 183,006,620	6.08%
4	Noncash Charges (Credits) to Income:			
5	Depreciation and Depletion	179,874,970	167,066,420	7.67%
6	Amortization, Net	36,075,440	33,241,101	8.53%
7	Other Noncash Charges to Net Income, Net	10,610,312	11,976,972	-11.41%
8	Deferred Income Taxes, Net	8,535,605	(8,261,582)	203.32%
9	Investment Tax Credit Adjustments, Net	(129,483)	(129,521)	0.03%
10	Change in Operating Receivables, Net	25,423,506	(36,275,911)	170.08%
11	Change in Materials, Supplies & Inventories, Net	(7,177,502)	(26,725,060)	73.14%
12	Change in Operating Payables & Accrued Liabilities, Net	(68,659,030)	78,691,016	-187.25%
13	Allowance for Funds Used During Construction (AFUDC)	(17,612,998)	(14,189,693)	-24.13%
14	Change in Other Assets & Liabilities, Net	79,866,995	(65,946,235)	221.11%
15	Other Operating Activities:			
16	Undistributed Earnings from Subsidiary Companies	(2,275,985)	(2,960,410)	23.12%
17	Change in Regulatory Assets	36,795,341	3,473,736	>300.00%
18	Change in Regulatory Liabilities	19,246,128	(14,255,866)	235.00%
19	Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	494,704,854	308,711,587	60.25%
20	Cash Inflows/Outflows From Investment Activities:			
21	Construction/Acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment	(566,864,445)	(516,500,191)	-9.75%
22	(Net of AFUDC)			
23	Investment in Equity Securities	(9,105,446)	(1,731,829)	>-300.00%
24	Proceeds from Sale of Assets	-	-	-
25	Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(575,969,891)	(518,232,020)	-11.14%
26	Cash Flows from Financing Activities:			
27	Proceeds from Issuance of:			
28	Issuance of Long-Term Debt	300,000,000	-	100.00%
29	Issuance of Notes Payable	-	-	100.00%
30	Line of Credit Borrowings, Net	-	-	100.00%
31	Proceeds From Issuance of Common Stock, Net	73,612,936	276,971,002	-73.42%
32	Payments for Retirement of:			
33	Repayments of Short Term Borrowings, Net	(92,403)	92,403	-200.00%
34	Repayments of Long Term Borrowings, Net	-	-	-
35	Line of Credit Repayments, Net	(132,000,000)	77,000,000	-271.43%
36	Dividends on Common Stock	(154,089,441)	(140,062,161)	-10.02%
37	Other Financing Activities:			
38	Debt Financing Costs	(4,109,961)	(1,286,054)	-219.58%
39	Treasury Stock Activity	731,249	603,028	21.26%
40	Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	84,052,380	213,318,218	-60.60%
41	Net Increase/Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,787,343	3,797,785	-26.61%
42	Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	20,855,350	17,057,565	22.26%
43	Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 23,642,693	\$ 20,855,350	13.37%
44				
45	This financial statement is presented on the basis of the accounting requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory			
46	Commission (FERC) as set forth in its applicable Uniform System of Accounts. As such, subsidiaries are presented using the equity			
47	method of accounting. The amounts presented are consistent with the presentation in FERC Form 1, plus Canadian Montana			
48	Pipeline Corporation and the adjustment to a regulated basis for Colstrip Unit 4.			
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MONTANA LONG TERM DEBT 2023

	Description	Issue Date	Maturity Date	Principal Amount	Net Proceeds	Outstanding Per Balance Sheet	Yield to Maturity	Annual Net Cost Inc. Prem./Disc.	Total Cost %
1									
2	First Mortgage Bonds								
4	5.71% Series (\$55M), Due 2039	10/15/09	10/15/39	55,000,000	54,450,000	55,000,000	5.71%	3,158,845	5.74%
5	5.01% Series (\$225M), Due 2025	05/27/10	05/01/25	161,000,000	160,075,635	161,000,000	5.01%	8,585,842	5.33%
6	4.15% Series(\$60M), Due 2042	08/10/12	08/10/42	60,000,000	59,623,329	60,000,000	4.15%	2,502,562	4.17%
7	4.30% Series(\$40M), Due 2052	08/10/12	08/10/52	40,000,000	39,748,886	40,000,000	4.30%	1,726,280	4.32%
8	4.85% Series(\$65M), Due 2043	12/19/13	12/19/43	15,000,000	14,905,880	15,000,000	4.85%	730,647	4.87%
9	3.99% Series(\$35M), Due 2028	12/19/13	12/19/28	35,000,000	34,807,797	35,000,000	3.99%	1,409,343	4.03%
10	4.176% Series(\$450M), Due 2044	11/14/14	11/14/44	450,000,000	445,072,899	450,000,000	4.18%	19,570,295	4.35%
11	3.11% Series(\$75M), Due 2025	06/23/15	07/01/25	75,000,000	74,563,893	75,000,000	3.11%	2,749,526	3.67%
12	4.11% Series(\$125M), Due 2045	06/23/15	07/01/45	125,000,000	124,273,156	125,000,000	4.11%	5,369,022	4.30%
13	4.03% Series (\$250M) Due 2047	11/06/17	11/06/47	250,000,000	248,778,070	250,000,000	4.03%	10,644,517	4.26%
14	3.98% Series(\$50M), Due 2049	06/26/19	06/26/49	50,000,000	49,538,281	50,000,000	3.98%	2,005,288	4.01%
15	3.98% Series(\$150M), Due 2049	09/17/19	09/17/49	100,000,000	99,389,221	100,000,000	3.98%	3,996,904	4.00%
16	3.21% Series(\$100M) Due 2030	05/15/20	05/15/30	100,000,000	99,516,844	100,000,000	3.21%	3,270,011	3.27%
17	1.00% Series(\$100M) Due 2024	03/26/21	03/26/24	100,000,000	99,442,399	99,993,462	1.00%	1,203,401	1.20%
18	5.57% Series(\$239M) Due 2033	03/30/23	03/30/33	239,000,000	238,909,984	239,000,000	5.57%	13,400,318	5.61%
19	Total First Mortgage Bonds			\$ 1,855,000,000	\$ 1,843,096,274	\$ 1,854,993,462		\$ 80,322,803	4.33%
20									
21	Pollution Control Bonds								
22	3.875% Series (\$144.7M), Due 2028	06/29/23	07/01/28	\$ 144,660,000	\$ 144,020,056	\$ 144,660,000	3.875%	\$ 4,217,638	2.92%
23									
24	Total Pollution Control Bonds			\$ 144,660,000	\$ 144,020,056	\$ 144,660,000		\$ 4,217,638	2.92%
25									
26	Other Long-Term Debt								
27									
28									
29	Total Other Long Term Debt			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
30									
31	TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT			\$ 1,999,660,000	\$ 1,987,116,330	\$ 1,999,653,462		\$ 84,540,442	4.23%
32									
33									
34	This schedule does not reflect our obligations under capital lease which total \$8,799,105								
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47									
48									

Sch. 25	PREFERRED STOCK									
	Series	Issue Date Mo./Yr.	Shares Issued	Par Value	Call Price	Net Proceeds	Cost of Money	Principal Outstanding	Annual Cost	Embed. Cost %
1	Not Applicable									
2										
3										
4										
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31										
32	TOTAL					0		0	0	

Sch. 26		COMMON STOCK							
		Avg. Number of Shares Outstanding 1/	Book Value Per Share	Basic Earnings Per Share	Dividends Per Share (Declared)	Retention Ratio 2/	Market Price 2/		Price/Earnings Ratio 2/
							High	Low	
1									
2									
3	January	59,762,762	45	0.00		-	61	59	
4									
5	February	59,790,353	45.34	0.00		-	58.99	57.85	
6									
7	March	59,793,731	45.04	1	0.640	-	58.01	57.20	
8									
9	April	59,794,937	45.21	0.00		-	61.24	60.16	
10									
11	May	59,799,253	45.23	-		-	60.29	59.44	
12									
13	June	59,991,323	44.79	0.32	0.640	-	59.59	58.57	
14									
15	July	60,041,849	44.94			-	58.38	57.37	
16									
17	August	60,537,126	45.19			-	56.77	55.89	
18									
19	September	61,241,819	44.75	0.48	0.640	-	52.52	51.83	
20									
21	October 2/	100	27,604.07			-			
22									
23	November 2/	100	27,895.46			-			
24									
25	December 2/	100	27,853.14	831,422.68	390,416.406	-			
26									
27	TOTAL Year End 2/	100	27,853	831,424.53	\$390,418.33	-	-	-	
28									
29	1/ Monthly shares are actual shares outstanding at month-end.								
30									
31									
32	2/ On October 2, 2023, NorthWestern Corporation and NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc. completed the reorganization into a holding								
33	company structure. In this reorganization, shareholders of Northwestern Corporation (the predecessor publicly held parent company)								
34	became shareholders of Northwestern Energy Group, Inc., maintaining the same number of shares and ownership percentage as held								
35	in Northwestern Corporation immediately prior to the reorganization. Northwestern Corporation became a wholly-owned subsidiary of								
36	Northwestern Energy Group, Inc. As such, beginning on October 2, 2023, NorthWestern Corporation is not a publically traded entity								
37	and the amount of shares outstanding significantly changed. Therefore these amounts for October 2023 through December 2023 will								
38	not be comparative to historical amounts. Further, year-to-date amounts may be misleading when compared to historical reports.								
39									

Sch. 27	MONTANA EARNED RATE OF RETURN - GAS			
	Description	This Year	Last Year	% Change
1	Rate Base			
2	101 Plant in Service	\$1,177,508,387	\$1,061,317,009	10.95%
3	108 Accumulated Depreciation	(443,286,924)	(423,832,268)	-4.59%
4				
5	Net Plant in Service	\$734,221,463	\$637,484,741	15.17%
6	Additions:			
7	154, 156 Materials & Supplies	\$17,519,140	\$13,709,246	27.79%
8	165 Prepayments			
9	Other Additions	41,791,590	42,555,173	-1.79%
10				
11	Total Additions	\$59,310,730	\$56,264,419	5.41%
12	Deductions:			
13	190 Accumulated Deferred Income Taxes	\$33,702,300	\$36,293,391	-7.14%
14	252 Customer Advances for Construction	21,912,689	19,826,466	10.52%
15	255 Accumulated Def. Investment Tax Credits			
16	Other Deductions	47,062,844	50,472,804	-6.76%
17				
18	Total Deductions	\$102,677,833	\$106,592,661	-3.67%
19	Total Rate Base	\$690,854,360	\$587,156,499	17.66%
20	Adjusted Rate Base	\$690,854,360	\$587,156,499	17.66%
21	Net Earnings	\$ 38,818,699	\$ 36,109,219	7.50%
22	Rate of Return on Average Rate Base	5.619%	6.150%	-8.63%
23	Rate of Return on Average Equity 1/	7.827%	8.554%	-8.50%
24				
25	Major Normalizing and			
26	Commission Ratemaking Adjustments			
27	Rate Schedule Revenues 2/	\$766,416	(\$6,006,451)	112.76%
28	Environmental True-up MGP Sites 3/	394,884	685,151	-42.37%
29				
30	Non-Allowables:			
31	Advertising	322,806	463,011	-30.28%
32	Dues, Contributions, Other	45,209	30,886	46.37%
33				
34	Associated Income Taxes 4/	1,143,289	3,253,547	-64.86%
35				
36	Total Adjustments	\$2,672,605	(\$1,573,856)	269.81%
37	Revised Net Earnings	\$41,491,304	\$34,535,363	20.14%
38				
39	Rate Base Adjustment			
40	Stipulation with MCC 5/	(\$6,834,775)	(\$7,261,148)	5.87%
41				
42	Revised Rate Base	\$684,019,585	\$579,895,351	17.96%
43	Adjusted Rate of Return on Average Rate Base	6.066%	5.955%	1.85%
44	Adjusted Rate of Return on Average Equity 1/	8.246%	7.350%	12.19%
45				
46	1/ Return on Equity calculated using the capital structure approved in Docket No. D2022.7.78.			
47				
48	2/ Adjusting revenues to a normalized basis by converting actual usage to normalized usage. This			
49	adjustment is based upon the MPSC-approved methodology established in prior rate reviews.			
50				
51	3/ Removal of expenses recorded in 2023 related to environmental costs not recovered from customers.			
52				
53	4/ Associated Income taxes include an interest synchronization adjustment based upon the approved			
54	capital structure in Docket No. D2022.7.78.			
55				
56	5/ Per NWE/MCC Stipulation Agreement Docket No. D2007.7.82 reflecting one-third of the \$38.8 million			
57	allocated to natural gas as a rate base reduction.			
58				
59				

Sch. 27	cont.	MONTANA EARNED RATE OF RETURN - GAS		
	Description	This Year	Last Year	% Change
1				
2	Detail - Other Additions			
3	Gas Stored Underground	36,167,272	36,167,272	0.00%
4	Cost of Refinancing Debt	6,174,499	6,938,082	-11.01%
5	MPSC/MCC Taxes	(550,181)	(550,181)	0.00%
6				
7	Total Other Additions	\$41,791,590	\$42,555,173	-1.79%
8				
9	Detail - Other Deductions			
10	Personal Injury and Property Damage	\$1,614,731	\$1,676,292	-3.67%
11	Storage Gas Sales 2000 & 2001	6,835,686	7,256,202	-5.80%
12	Gross Cash Requirements	17,174,406	18,512,461	-7.23%
13	Regulatory Liability (TCJA)	\$20,830,436	\$22,420,263	-7.09%
14	Environmental Reserve	607,585	607,585	0.00%
15				
16	Total Other Deductions	\$47,062,844	\$50,472,804	-6.76%
17				
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Sch. 28	MONTANA COMPOSITE STATISTICS - NATURAL GAS (INCLUDES CMP)		
	Description		Amount
1			
2	Plant (Intrastate Only)		
3			
4	101	Plant in Service (Includes Allocation from Common)	\$ 1,240,898,111
5	105	Plant Held for Future Use	29,866
6	107	Construction Work in Progress	24,056,885
7	117	Gas in Underground Storage	50,275,607
8	151-163	Materials & Supplies	8,913,471
9		(Less):	0
10	108, 111	Depreciation & Amortization Reserves	454,230,934
11	252	Customer Advances	22,961,105
12	NET BOOK COSTS		846,981,900
13			
14	Revenues & Expenses		
15			
16	400	Operating Revenues	248,630,279
17			
18	Total Operating Revenues		248,630,279
19			
20	401-402	Other Operating Expenses (including regulatory amortizations)	149,207,877
21	403-407	Depreciation, Depletion, & Amortization Expenses	30,019,553
22	408.1	Taxes Other than Income Taxes	34,311,635
23	409-411	Federal & State Income Taxes	(3,727,485)
24			
25	Total Operating Expenses		209,811,580
26	Net Operating Income		38,818,699
27			
28	415-421.1	Other Income	3,621,268
29	421.2-426.5	Other Deductions	341,809
30	NET INCOME BEFORE INTEREST EXPENSE		\$ 42,098,158
31			
32	Average Customers (Intrastate Only)		
33		Residential	
34		Commercial	
35		Industrial	232
36		Other (including interdepartmental)	190
37	TOTAL AVERAGE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS		422
38			
39	Other Statistics (Intrastate Only)		
40		Average Annual Residential Use (Dkt)	84.2
41		Average Annual Residential Cost per (Dkt)	\$ 9.94
42		Average Residential Monthly Bill	\$69.78
43			
44		Plant in Service (Gross) per Customer	\$ 2,940,517

Sch. 29	Montana Customer Information- Natural Gas, 1/					
	City	Population Census 2020	Residential	Commercial	Industrial & Other	Total
1	Absarokee	1,000	489	76	1	566
2	Amsterdam	206	57	12	-	69
3	Anaconda	9,421	3,476	344	5	3,825
4	Augusta	316	203	53	1	257
5	Belfry	193	4	-	-	4
6	Belgrade	10,460	7,372	1,351	3	8,726
7	Big Mountain	-	310	37	-	347
8	Big Sandy	605	295	74	-	369
9	Big Timber	1,650	957	196	6	1,159
10	Bigfork	5,118	1,716	244	-	1,960
11	Billings	117,116	26	4	-	30
12	Bonner	1,690	80	28	1	109
13	Boulder	1,201	456	84	3	543
14	Bozeman	53,293	27,706	4,136	16	31,858
15	Browning	1,018	1,059	156	7	1,222
16	Buffalo	-	7	1	-	8
17	Butte	34,494	13,169	1,544	34	14,747
18	Cardwell	62	19	4	-	23
19	Carter	65	29	9	-	38
20	Chester	847	359	137	1	497
21	Chinook	1,185	715	147	5	867
22	Choteau	1,721	904	181	7	1,092
23	Churchill	1,030	463	47	-	510
24	Clancy	1,851	773	49	-	822
25	Clinton	1,018	381	18	1	400
26	Columbia Falls	5,308	3,774	410	4	4,188
27	Columbus	1,857	1,138	192	4	1,334
28	Conrad	2,318	1,129	228	10	1,367
29	Coram	572	124	29	-	153
30	Corbin	-	1	-	-	1
31	Corvallis	1,125	1,438	110	-	1,548
32	Cut Bank	3,056	46	12	1	59
33	Deer Lodge	2,938	1,641	228	5	1,874
34	Dillon	3,880	2,203	371	6	2,580
35	Drummond	272	204	52	2	258
36	East Glacier Park	354	140	47	1	188
37	East Helena	1,944	2,449	161	3	2,613
38	Elliston	227	109	15	-	124
39	Essex	44	109	19	1	129
40	Fairfield	759	423	87	4	514
41	Florence	821	1,429	102	1	1,532
42	Floweree	19	43	9	-	52
43	Fort Belknap	1,567	317	62	-	379
44	Fort Benton	1,449	658	169	1	828
45	Fort Harrison	-	-	13	58	71
46	Fort Shaw	256	111	13	-	124
47	Galata	-	2	-	-	2
48	Gallatin Gateway	967	204	52	-	256
49	Garneill	-	6	2	-	8
50	Garrison	115	22	8	-	30
51	Gildford	141	75	25	-	100
52	Grantsdale	-	17	1	-	18
53	Great Falls	60,442	997	83	3	1,083

Sch. 29	Montana Customer Information- Natural Gas, 1/					
	City	Population Census 2020	Residential	Commercial	Industrial & Other	Total
1	Greycliff	89	45	6	-	51
2	Hall	51	63	16	-	79
3	Hamilton	4,659	4,510	754	7	5,271
4	Harlem	769	329	63	1	393
5	Harlowton	955	535	106	1	642
6	Havre	9,362	4,577	703	10	5,290
7	Helena	32,091	20,199	2,604	29	22,832
8	Hil	154	29	3	2	34
9	Hingham	131	79	32	-	111
10	Hungry Horse	828	227	37	-	264
11	Inverness	77	36	11	-	47
12	Jefferson City	597	236	15	2	253
13	Joplin	159	96	25	-	121
14	Judith Gap	110	64	15	-	79
15	Kalispell	24,558	13,692	2,244	20	15,956
16	Kremlin	78	46	18	-	64
17	Laurel	7,222	27	3	-	30
18	Ledger	-	7	-	-	7
19	Lewistown	5,952	3,060	525	7	3,592
20	Livingston	8,040	4,471	638	13	5,122
21	Logan	72	40	6	-	46
22	Lohman	-	2	1	-	3
23	Lolo	4,399	1,816	106	-	1,922
24	Loma	65	44	18	-	62
25	Manhattan	2,086	983	132	2	1,117
26	Martin City	461	116	16	-	132
27	Marysville	82	1	-	-	1
28	Milltown	-	70	11	-	81
29	Missoula	73,489	32,433	4,074	47	36,554
30	Montana City	2,918	869	88	-	957
31	Moore	194	3	-	-	3
32	Philipsburg	841	470	98	-	568
33	Power	177	-	1	-	1
34	Ramsay	-	41	7	-	48
35	Red Lodge	2,257	2,240	311	9	2,560
36	Reedpoint	177	121	15	1	137
37	Roberts	304	184	22	-	206
38	Rocker	-	48	6	-	54
39	Rudyard	270	126	30	-	156
40	Ryegate	223	3	1	-	4
41	Shawmut	42	23	7	-	30
42	Shelby	3,169	9	4	-	13
43	Sheridan	694	469	78	-	547
44	Silver Star	46	23	5	-	28
45	Silverbow	-	3	3	2	8
46	Simms	361	159	16	-	175
47	Somers	1,049	436	22	-	458
48	Stevensville	2,002	1,965	287	5	2,257
49	Sun River	95	105	16	-	121
50	Three Forks	1,989	918	158	-	1,076
	Turah	364	164	4	-	168
51	Twin Bridges	330	205	61	-	266

Sch. 29	Montana Customer Information- Natural Gas, 1/					
	City	Population Census 2020	Residential	Commercial	Industrial & Other	Total
1	Valier	530	309	69	4	382
2	Vaughn	737	331	27	-	358
3	Victor	789	514	80	1	595
4	Walkerville	639	239	12	-	251
5	Warm Springs	-	13	2	-	15
6	West Glacier	221	108	41	3	152
7	Whitefish	7,751	5,136	522	5	5,663
8	Whitehall	1,006	708	114	1	823
9	Whitlash	4	-	1	-	1
10	Williamsburg	-	1	-	-	1
11	Willow Creek	230	100	14	-	114
12	Wolf Creek	25	49	27	-	76
13	WFD	-	51	18	2	71
14						
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48	Total	541,961	183,810	25,781	369	209,960

1/ Customer populations represent an average of the 12 month period from 01/01/23 through 12/31/23.

Sch. 30	MONTANA EMPLOYEE COUNTS 1/			
	Department	Year Beginning	Year End	Average
1				
2	Utility Operations			
3	Executive	1	0	1
4	Customer Care	150	154	152
5	Finance	57	56	57
6	Information Technology	98	102	100
7	Distribution	404	435	420
8	Asset Management	39	40	40
9	Transmission	312	322	317
10	Supply	129	132	131
11	Legal	23	22	23
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	1,213	1,263	1,238
1/ Consistent with prior years, part time employees have been converted to full-time equivalents.				

Sch. 31 MONTANA CONSTRUCTION BUDGET 2024 (ASSIGNED & ALLOCATED)			
	Project Description	Total Company	Total Montana
1			
2	Electric Operations		
3	MT Transmission - Missoula Miller Creek substation rebuild capacity	\$19,803,362	\$19,803,362
4	MT Distribution - Transformer purchases new connects	8,285,001	8,285,001
5	MT Transmission - Wildfire Mitigation forest mgmt	6,178,969	6,178,969
6	MT Transmission - Capacity upgrades/additions	5,649,299	5,649,299
7	MT Transmission - Pole replacements	5,000,000	5,000,000
8	MT Transmission - Substation auto transformer upgrade	4,865,248	4,865,248
9	MT Transmission - Wildfire Mitigation plan	4,681,257	4,681,257
10	MT Transmission - Substation wildfire mitigation plan	4,500,295	4,500,295
11	MT Distribution - Hamilton North substation capacity	4,277,987	4,277,987
12	MT Transmission - Substation Renova auto rebuild	3,709,329	3,709,329
13	MT Transmission - Bozeman substation Three Rivers Bank 1	3,384,912	3,384,912
14	MT Distribution - Wildfire Mitigation plan	3,145,848	3,145,848
15	MT Transmission - Crooked Falls-Great Falls ES capacity	2,999,999	2,999,999
16	MT Transmission - Great Falls 230 - Eastside capacity	2,999,997	2,999,997
17	SD Distribution - LED Streetlight program	2,973,341	-
18	MT Transmission - Substation capacity Harlem	2,720,532	2,720,532
19	MT Transmission - Bozeman Bradley Creek substation 161 PCB	2,677,430	2,677,430
20	MT Distribution - Great Falls pole replacements	2,440,853	2,440,853
21	MT Distribution - Bozeman westside substation bank 1 capacity	2,094,896	2,094,896
22	MT Transmission - Bridger-Red Lodge B reliability	1,927,134	1,927,134
23	MT Distribution - Billings eastside bank 4 substation upgrade	1,887,835	1,887,835
24	MT Transmission - Substation Gardiner capacity	1,819,256	1,819,256
25	MT Transmission - Billings Baseline substation relays and comms	1,709,262	1,709,262
26	MT Distribution - Wildfire Mitigation Missoula forest mgmt	1,576,226	1,576,226
27	MT Distribution - Helena westside bank 2 substation capacity	1,560,919	1,560,919
28	MT Distribution - Helena pole replacements	1,543,833	1,543,833
29	MT Distribution - Rural Reliability Geraldine resiliency	1,527,253	1,527,253
30	MT Distribution - Butte pole replacements	1,524,768	1,524,768
31	MT Transmission - Clyde Park substation rebuild	1,450,921	1,450,921
32	MT Distribution - Helena Spokane Bench bank 1 substation capacity	1,405,498	1,405,498
33	MT Distribution - Wildfire Mitigation Helena forest mgmt	1,394,545	1,394,545
34	MT Distribution - Bozeman pole replacements	1,318,706	1,318,706
35	MT Distribution - New Manhattan substation	1,304,752	1,304,752
36	MT Transmission - Bitterroot Area Initiative capacity	1,274,521	1,274,521
37	MT Distribution - Billings eastside bank 3 substation upgrade	1,235,643	1,235,643
38	MT Distribution - Skalkaho cutover	1,225,030	1,225,030
39	MT Transmission - Butte Substation maintenance Mill Creek	1,211,630	1,211,630
40	SD Distribution - Aberdeen A5200 reconductor	1,192,720	-
41	MT Distribution - Butte McQueen substation booster	1,089,807	1,089,807
42	SD Distribution - North Division pole replacements	1,079,210	-
43	MT Distribution - Harrison Pony substation transformer capacity	1,074,770	1,074,770
44	MT Distribution - Deer Lodge 4.16kv cutover	1,073,106	1,073,106
45	MT Distribution - Loweth substation transformer upgrade	1,050,758	1,050,758
46	SD Transmission - Substation upgrade Redfield	1,050,477	-
47	MT Distribution - Livingston cutover	1,045,339	1,045,339
48	MT Distribution - Rockvale substation transformer capacity	1,043,102	1,043,102
49	MT Distribution - Bozeman westside sub bank 1 new feeder capacity	1,037,874	1,037,874
50			
51	All Other Projects < \$1 Million Each and blankets	83,999,609	63,191,724
52	Total Electric Utility Construction Budget	214,023,059	186,919,426
53			
54	Natural Gas Operations		
55	MT Transmission - Mainline 3 South Loop	\$22,257,771	\$22,257,771
56	MT Transmission - Kalspell capacity upgrade	10,270,090	10,270,090
57	MT Transmission - Telstad reroute	5,680,022	5,680,022
58	MT Transmission - Butte city gate 1 to city gate 3 replace	5,675,645	5,675,645
59	MT Transmission - Vaughn to Sun Prairie MAOP compliance	4,589,602	4,589,602
60	MT Distribution - Butte Base gas one upgrades	3,499,090	\$3,499,090
61	MT Transmission - Dry Creek Storage additional cushion gas	2,067,585	2,067,585
62	MT Transmission - New Dry Creek well	1,715,052	1,715,052
63	MT Transmission - Helena tie to Boulder tap	1,622,616	1,622,616
64	MT Transmission - Helena - Three Forks pipeline	1,489,760	1,489,760
65	SD Distribution - Huron relocate town border station flooding/layout	1,281,461	-
66	MT Distribution - Gas meters and regulators new connect	1,257,252	1,257,252
67	MT Transmission - Three Forks compressor	1,203,217	1,203,217
68	MT Transmission - Great Falls city gate 1 and valve set compliance	1,111,832	1,111,832
69	MT Distribution - Bozeman Base gas one upgrades	1,042,150	1,042,150
70	MT Transmission - Belgrade city gate 1 and 2 MAOP compliance	1,013,185	1,013,185
71			
72	All Other Projects < \$1 Million Each and blankets	\$35,048,563.04	\$22,181,588
73	Total Natural Gas Utility Construction Budget	\$100,824,893	\$86,676,457
74			
75	Common		
76	MT Common - Distribution AMI Metering and Infrastructure	\$26,319,902	\$26,319,902
77	MT Common - Livingston Facility design and construct	4,787,019	4,787,019
78	MT Common - Fleet vehicles and equipment	4,266,996	4,266,996
79	MT Common - Business Technology Enterprise GIS - ESRI	1,663,246	1,663,246
80	SD Common - Fleet Vehicles and equipment	1,075,992	-
81			
82	All Other Projects < \$1 Million Each and blankets (Includes BT, Communications, Facilities, Land, Customer Service)	\$16,823,668.72	\$12,832,062
83			
84	Total Common Utility Construction Budget	54,936,824	49,869,225
85			
86	MT/SD Generation		
87	MT Generation - Yellowstone generation station	\$71,867,782	\$71,867,782
88	SD Generation - Aberdeen new generation	25,000,000	-
89	MT Generation - CU4 plant upgrades	6,964,389	6,964,389
90	MT Generation - DGGG GG 743179 50k hour overhaul	6,085,061	6,085,061
91	MT Generation - DGGG GG 743177 50k hour overhaul	6,082,978	6,082,978
92	MT Generation - Hydro Cochrane radial hoist upgrade	4,273,603	4,273,603
93	MT Generation - Hydro Holter U2 turbine upgrade	3,497,403	3,497,403
94	MT Generation - Hydro Cochrane U2 turbine upgrade	3,378,758	3,378,758
95	MT Generation - Hydro Hauser U1 turbine upgrade	3,356,125	3,356,125
96	MT Generation - DGGG PT 804400 50k Overhaul	3,221,257	3,221,257
97	MT Generation - DGGG PT 804401 50k Overhaul	3,221,257	3,221,257
98	SD Generation - Mobile Fleet Expansion	2,732,718	-
99	SD Generation - NEAL 4 partner generation	2,255,517	-
100	MT Generation - Hydro Ryan headgate operator upgrade	1,833,835	1,833,835
101	MT Generation - Hydro Holter U2 generator rewind	1,596,259	1,596,259
102	SD Generation - Big Stone partner generation	1,563,012	-
103	MT Generation - Hydro Black Eagle spillway upgrade for ice	1,337,987	1,337,987
104	MT Generation - Thompson Falls relicensing	1,070,282	1,070,282
105			
106	All Other Projects < \$1 Million Each and blankets	\$9,907,627	\$9,242,561
107	Total MT/SD Generation	159,245,849	127,029,537
108	TOTAL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET	\$529,030,626	\$450,494,646

Sch. 32	MONTANA TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION and STORAGE SYSTEMS -NATURAL GAS						
Transmission System-Sales and Transportation							
Month	Peak Day of Month		Peak Day Volume (MMBTU's)		Monthly Volumes (MMBTU's)		
	Total Company	Montana	Total Company	Montana	Total Company	Montana	
1	January		23		350,157		7,411,134
2	February		22		357,645		6,212,424
3	March		5		252,018		6,041,335
4	April		4		219,020		3,878,487
5	May		5		192,746		2,148,371
6	June		21		199,017		2,081,886
7	July		21		181,921		2,278,303
8	August		19		148,459		2,047,929
9	September		21		131,050		2,091,828
10	October		26		251,450		4,106,558
11	November		30		239,480		5,212,790
12	December		26		231,001		6,235,149
13	TOTAL						49,746,194
14							
15							
Distribution System-Sales and Transportation							
Month	Sales Volumes		Transportation Volumes		Monthly Volumes (MMBTU's)		
	Total Company	Montana	Total Company	Montana	Total Company	Montana	
19	January		4,009,922		141,380		4,151,301
20	February		3,382,828		110,447		3,493,276
21	March		3,472,519		112,002		3,584,521
22	April		2,643,165		78,685		2,721,850
23	May		1,376,386		43,544		1,419,930
24	June		670,225		26,085		696,310
25	July		533,355		24,558		557,913
26	August		397,617		21,688		419,305
27	September		454,544		23,248		477,792
28	October		839,434		20,337		859,771
29	November		1,988,497		48,345		2,036,841
30	December		2,802,733		73,365		2,876,098
31	TOTAL		22,571,224		723,683		23,294,907
32							
33							
Storage System-Sales and Transportation							
Month	Peak Day & Peak Day Vol.		Total Monthly Volumes (MMBTU's)				
	Total Company	Montana	Total Montana		Energy Supply		
	1/	1/	Injection	Withdrawal	Injection	Withdrawal	
38	January			1,167	2,507,488		1,689,804
39	February			2,291	2,962,885		1,656,390
40	March			123,050	1,977,518		1,161,029
41	April			1,464,477	191,045	1,080,045	
42	May			2,784,715	11,298	2,263,456	
43	June			3,172,814	112,991	2,660,723	
44	July			2,781,522	19,674	1,531,715	
45	August			2,000,192	33,164	1,357,113	
46	September			1,198,530	58,163	626,648	
47	October			1,260,777	697,281		438,243
48	November			203,846	1,642,647		1,193,455
49	December			10,290	2,646,759		1,998,293
50	TOTAL			15,003,671	12,860,912	9,519,700	8,137,214
51							
52							
53	1/ Data is not accumulated on a daily basis. Therefore the peak day and peak day volumes are not available.						
54							
55							

Sch. 33	SOURCES OF MONTANA CORE NATURAL GAS SUPPLY				
	Supply Location	Last Year Volumes MMBTU	This Year Volumes MMBTU	Last Year Avg. Commodity Cost	This Year Avg. Commodity Cost
1					
2	Canadian Pipeline	17,740,957		\$4.9675	
3	Havre Pipeline	749,443		4.0806	
4	Encana Pipeline				
	Colorado Interstate Pipeline	585,656		7.1304	
5	Company Owned Production 1/	3,869,076		0.9557	
6	Intra Montana Purchase	418,180		4.6995	
7	TOTAL CORE SUPPLY LAST YEAR	23,363,311		\$4.5298	
8					
9	Canadian Pipeline		18,793,872		\$2.5275
10	Havre Pipeline		712,039		1.9598
11	Encana Pipeline		0		
12	Colorado Interstate Pipeline		498,981		6.1851
13	Company Owned Production 1/		3,706,987		0.4273
14	Intra Montana Purchase		208,332		2.3133
15	TOTAL CORE SUPPLY THIS YEAR		23,920,211		\$2.4883
16					
17	1/ Average commodity cost for Company Owned Production reflects royalties and production taxes only.				
18					
19					

Sch. 34	MONTANA CONSERVATION & DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS						
	Program Description (These are Natural Gas DSM Programs)	Current Year Expenditures	Previous Year Expenditures	% Change	Planned Savings (Mcf or Dkt)	Achieved Savings (Mcf or Dkt)	Difference
1							
2	2023 Natural Gas Business Partners Program	\$ -	\$ 971	-100%	0	0	0
3	- Initiated 2005, 2023 weighted average program life = 0 years, 0 participants.						
4	*2023 Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)	\$ 1,284,200	\$ 1,605,973	-20%	0	20,849	20,849
5	- Initiated natural gas savings in 2006, 2023 program life = 15 years						
6	2023 Residential Natural Gas Existing Construction Program	\$ 215,662	\$ 200,278	8%	17,880	9,285	(8,594)
7	- Reinitiated 2021, 2023 weighted average program life = 16 years, 406 participants.						
8	2023 Residential Natural Gas New Construction Program	\$ 9,435	\$ 1,279	638%	520	270	(250)
9	- Reinitiated 2022, 2023 weighted average program life = 18 years, 3 participants.						
10	2023 Commercial Natural Gas Existing Construction Program	\$ 51,721	\$ 10,334	401%	6,455	3,352	(3,103)
11	- Reinitiated 2021, 2023 weighted average program life = 18 years, 7 participants.						
12	2023 General Expenses All Natural Gas DSM Programs	\$ 48,031	\$ 685	6912%	0	0	0
13	-NA						
14							
15	A program participant is a Montana commercial or residential						
16	natural gas customer who installs eligible						
17	energy conservation measures and receives financial						
18	incentives/rebates either directly or indirectly.						
19							
20	*Note: 2023 NEEA expenditures are allocated to electric DSM						
21	but there are gas savings as a result of some NEEA initiatives.						
22	Participant has not been defined or counted for NEEA.						
23							
24	Units reported are in dekatherms ("Dkt")						
25							
26							
27							
28	TOTAL	\$ 1,609,049	\$ 1,819,520	-11.57%	24,855	33,756	8,902

Sch. 35		MONTANA CONSUMPTION AND REVENUES - NATURAL GAS					
	Description	Operating Revenues 1/		Dkt Sold 1/		Average Customers	
		Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year
1	Sales of Natural Gas						
2							
3	Residential	\$ 136,047,920	\$ 152,303,051	14,008,018	15,319,271	183,810	181,882
4	Commercial	73,713,246	79,267,287	8,036,086	8,328,738	25,727	25,323
5	Industrial Firm	1,391,696	1,519,549	157,142	163,474	232	233
6	Public Authorities	1,016,662	1,047,176	121,485	121,246	135	124
7	Interdepartmental	664,785	884,589	75,077	97,747	55	55
8	Sales to Other Utilities	3,072,317	1,326,341	196,908	220,900	1	2
9	TOTAL SALES	\$ 215,906,625	\$ 236,347,993	22,594,715	24,251,376	209,960	207,619
10		Operating Revenues		Dkt Transported		Average Customers	
11		Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year	Current Year	Previous Year
12							
13	Transportation of Gas						
14							
15	On System Transportation	\$ 29,202,361	\$ 24,472,458	28,513,167	26,509,478	274	275
16	Off System Transportation & Storage	-	-	-	-	-	5
17	Canadian Montana Pipeline	321,959	268,150	-	-	-	-
18	TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 29,524,320	\$ 24,740,608	28,513,167	26,509,478	274	280
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30	1/ Revenue and Dkts include unbilled and Canadian Montana Pipeline.						
31							
32							
33							
34							
35							
36							
37							
38							
39							
40							
41							

Sch. 36a	Natural Gas Universal System Benefits Programs					
	Program Description	Actual Expenditures	Contracted or Committed to Spend	Total Expenditures	Expected savings (dKt)	Most recent program evaluation
1	Local Conservation					
2	E+ Residential Audit	\$ 805,582	\$ -	\$ 805,582	2,538	2012
3	NWE Promotion	\$ 1,890	\$ -	\$ 1,890		
4	NWE Labor	\$ 21,662	\$ -	\$ 21,662		
5	NWE Admin. Non-labor	\$ 1,122	\$ -	\$ 1,122		
6	USB Interest & Svc Chg	\$ (23,176)	\$ -	\$ (23,176)		
7	Low Income					
8	Bill Assistance	\$ 1,065,709	\$ -	\$ 1,065,709		
9	Free Weatherization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	4,896	2012
10	Energy Share	\$ 336,068	\$ -	\$ 336,068		
11	NWE Promotion	\$ 54,941	\$ -	\$ 54,941		
12	NWE Labor	\$ 32,144	\$ -	\$ 32,144		
13	NWE Admin. Non-labor	\$ 733	\$ -	\$ 733		
14	USB Interest & Svc Chg	\$ (78,338)	\$ -	\$ (78,338)		
15	Total	\$ 2,218,338	\$ -	\$ 2,218,338	7,434	
16	Number of customers that received low income rate discounts				6,239	
17	Average monthly bill discount amount (\$/mo)				\$ 28.47 ^(a)	
18	Average LIEAP-eligible household income				n/a	
19	Number of customers that received weatherization assistance				162	
20	Expected average annual bill savings from weatherization				30 dKt	
21	Number of residential audits performed				341	
22	Number of residential virtual assessments performed				484	
23	(a) Average monthly bill discount is for the six (6) month time period that the natural gas low income rate discount is in effect.					
24	<i>Note: Order 6679e, allows NorthWestern to track on an annual basis its Natural Gas USB expenditures and revenues and adjust the Natural Gas USB Charge for any over or under collections.</i>					

Schedule 36a

Sch. 36b	Montana Conservation & Demand Side Management Programs					
	Program Description (These are Natural Gas USB Programs)	Actual Current Year Expenditures	Contracted or Committed to Spend	Total Current Year Expenditures	Expected savings (Dkt)	Most recent program evaluation
1	Local Conservation					
2	E+ Residential Audit	\$ 805,582	\$ -	\$ 805,582	2,538	2012
3						
4	Market Transformation					
5	*Building Operator Certification (BOC)	\$ 71,912	\$ -	\$ 71,912	894	2012
6						
7	Low Income					
8	Free Weatherization	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	4,896	2012
9						
10	*Note: BOC expenditures are allocated to electric USB					
11	but there are typically gas savings as a result of BOC.					
12						
13	Note: Order 6679e, allows NorthWestern to track on an annual basis its					
14	Natural Gas USB expenditures and revenues and adjust the Natural Gas					
15	USB Charge for any over or under collections.					
16						
17						
18						
19	Total	\$ 877,494	\$ -	\$ 877,494	8,328	2012