

# NorthWestern Energy



#### NorthWestern Energy Group, Inc.

dba: NorthWestern Energy

Ticker: NWE (Nasdaq)

www.northwesternenergy.com

#### **Corporate Support Office**

3010 West 69<sup>th</sup> Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108 (605) 978-2900

# Director of Corporate Development & Investor Relations Officer

Travis Meyer 605-978-2967 travis.meyer@northwestern.com

#### **Forward Looking Statements**

During the course of this presentation, there will be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements often address our expected future business and financial performance, and often contain words such as "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "seeks," or "will."

The information in this presentation is based upon our current expectations as of the date of this document unless otherwise noted. Our actual future business and financial performance may differ materially and adversely from our expectations expressed in any forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to revise or publicly update our forward-looking statements or this presentation for any reason. Although our expectations and beliefs are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results may differ materially. The factors that may affect our results are listed in certain of our press releases and disclosed in the Company's 10-K and 10-Q along with other public filings with the SEC.



# Overview

# NWE – An Investment for the Long Term

# Pure Electric & Gas Utility

- 100% pure electric and natural gas utility with over 100 years of operating history
- Solid economic indicators in service territory
- Diverse electric supply portfolio ~58% hydro, wind, & solar

# Solid Utility Foundation

- Residential electric and gas rates below national average
- Solid system reliability
- Low leaks per 100 miles of pipe
- Solid JD Power Overall Customer Satisfaction scores

# Earnings & Cash Flow

- Recent and ongoing rate reviews in all jurisdictions aid earnings, cash flow, and balance sheet strength
- NOLs and tax credits expected to mitigate future cash tax obligations
- History of consistent annual dividend growth

Attractive Future Growth Prospects

- Disciplined maintenance capital investment program focused on reliability, capacity, asset life, and compliance
- Further opportunity for energy supply investment to meet significant capacity shortfalls

# Financial Goals & Metrics

- Target 4%-6% EPS growth plus dividend yield to provide competitive total return
- Target dividend long-term payout ratio of 60%-70%
- Target debt to capitalization ratio of 50%-55% with liquidity of \$100 million or greater

Best Practices
Corporate
Governance









EMERGENCY

Recognized by EEI for our

emergency response efforts

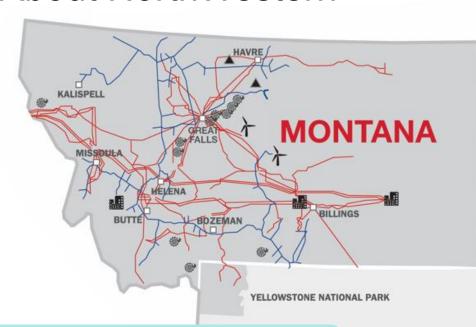
following the July 2024 windstorm in

Missoula, MT

5th Best Governance Score

А

# About NorthWestern



## **Montana Operations**

#### **Electric**

413,400 customers

25,390 miles - transmission & distribution lines

1,065 MW maximum capacity owned power generation

#### **Natural Gas**

214,500 customers

7,354 miles of transmission and distribution pipeline

17.85 Bcf of gas storage capacity

Own 28.2 Bcf of proven natural gas reserves



#### **South Dakota Operations**

#### **Electric**

65,300 customers

3,735 miles - transmission & distribution lines

420 MW nameplate owned power generation

#### **Natural Gas**

50.500 customers

1,851 miles of transmission and distribution pipeline



# **NEBRASKA**

NORTH PLATTE [

GRAND ISLAND

**KEARNEY** 

# **Nebraska Operations**

#### **Natural Gas**

43,300 customers

830 miles of distribution pipeline



Wind Farm

MNG



Thermal Generating Plants

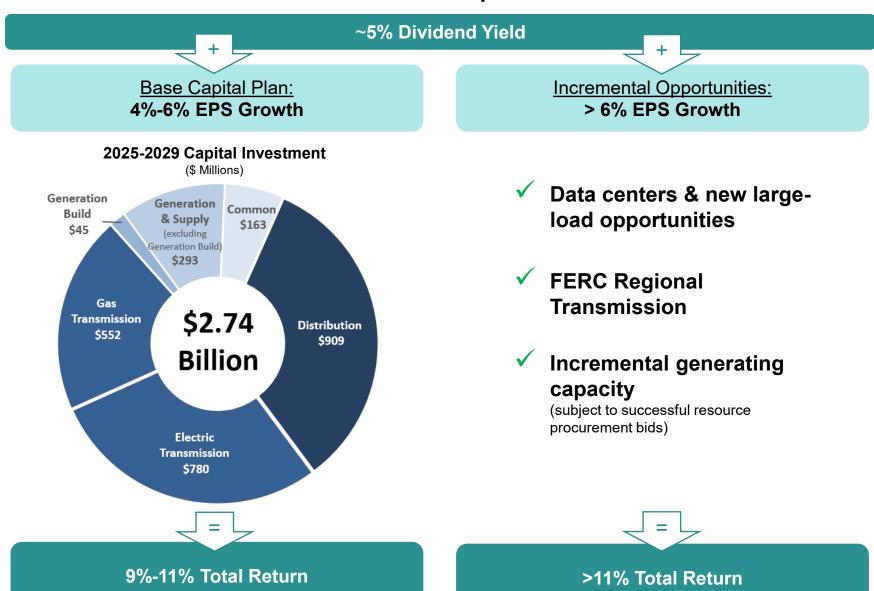






Natural Gas Reserves

# The NorthWestern Value Proposition



# \$2.74 billion

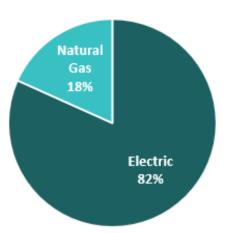
of highly executable and low-risk capital investment forecasted over the next five years.

This investment is expected to drive annualized earnings and rate base growth of approximately 4% - 6%.

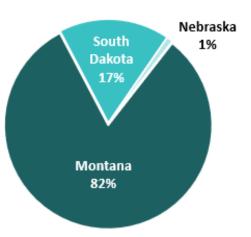
See slide titled "Strong Growth Outlook" for additional information.

# A Diversified Electric and Gas Utility

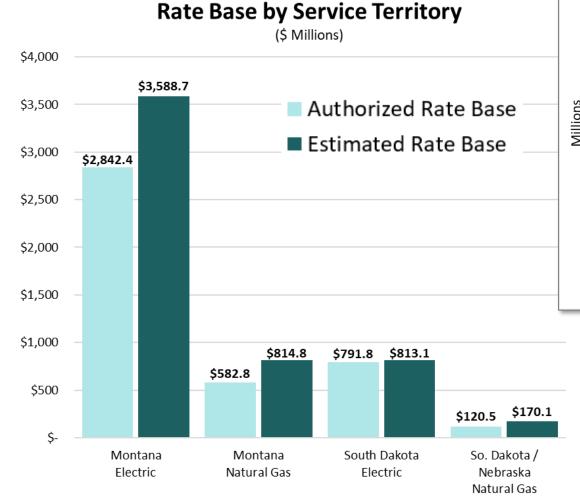
#### Estimated Rate Base

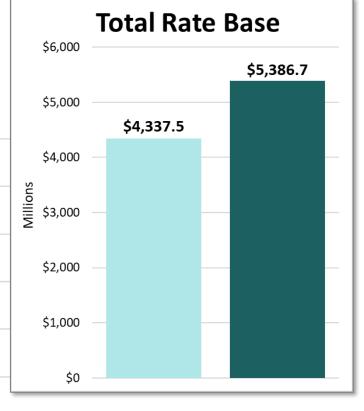


#### Estimated Rate Base







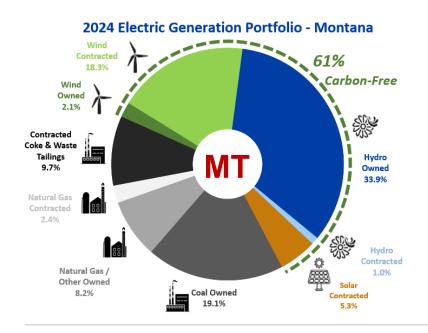


#### NorthWestern's '80/20' rules:

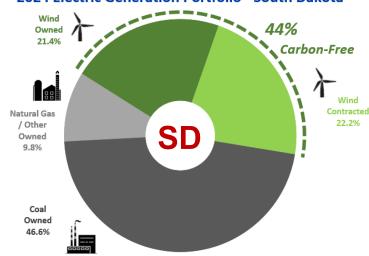
Approximately 80% Electric and 80% Montana.

Nearly \$5.4 billion of rate base investment to serve our customers.

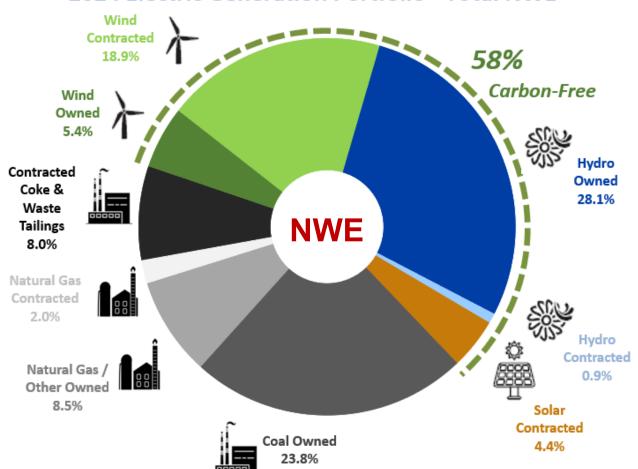
# Highly Carbon-Free Supply Portfolio



#### 2024 Electric Generation Portfolio - South Dakota



#### 2024 Electric Generation Portfolio - Total NWE

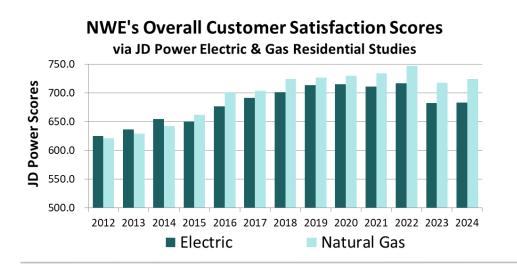


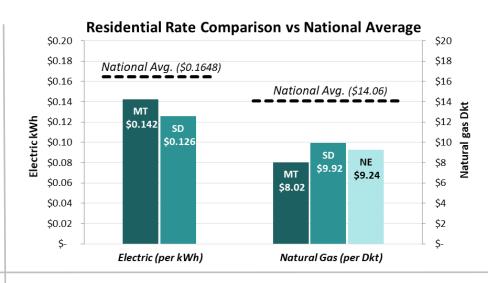
Contracted energy from Colstrip Energy Limited Partners (CELP), Yellowstone Energy Limited Partners (YELP) as well as a majority of the contracted wind, hydro and solar are federally mandated Qualifying Facilities, as defined under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).

NorthWestern does not own all the renewable energy certificates (RECs) generated by contracted resources and periodically sells its own RECs with proceeds benefiting retail customers. Accordingly, we cannot represent that 100% of carbonfree energy in the portfolio was delivered to our customers.

Based upon 2024 MWh's of owned and long-term contracted resources. Approximately 58% of our total company owned and contracted supply is carbon-free – better than the national average of ~42% in 2024. (eia.gov table 7.2b)

# Strong Utility Foundation



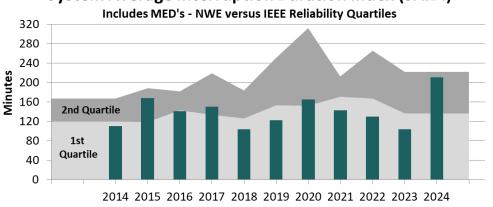


 NWE rates are an average for 2024 - total residential revenues divided by total residential loads delivered.

Electric source: U.S. EIA -Average Retail Price of Electricity, Annual for 2024 as of 8/14/2025.

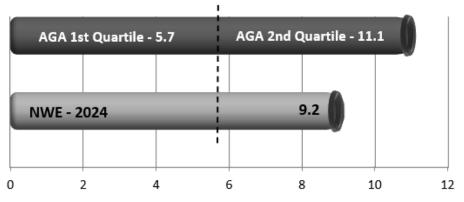
Natural Gas source: U.S. EIA - U.S. Price of Natural Gas Delivered to Residential Customers for 2024 as of 8/14/2025.

#### **System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI)**



#### Leaks per 100 Miles of Pipe

Excluding Excavation Damages - 2024



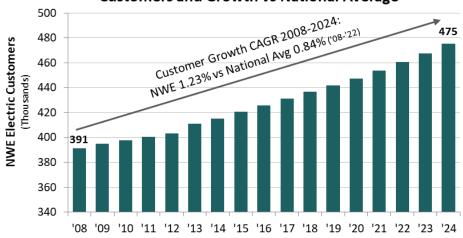
- Solid JD Power Overall Customer Satisfaction Scores
- Solid electric system reliability

- Residential rates below national average<sup>1</sup>
- Better than average natural gas leaks per mile

# Solid Economic Indicators

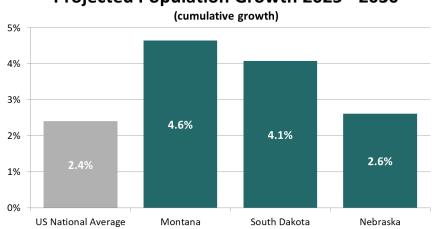
#### **Electric**

#### **Customers and Growth vs National Average**



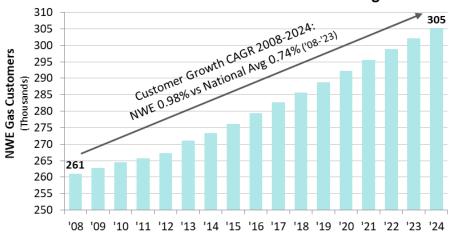
Source: Company 10-K's, 2022/2023 EEI Statistical Yearbook – Table 7.2, and EIA.gov

#### **Projected Population Growth 2025 - 2030**



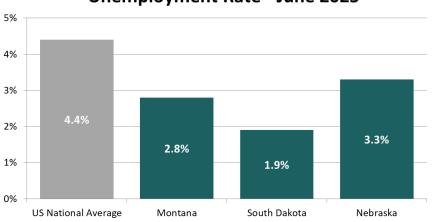
## Natural Gas





Source: Company 10-K's and EIA.gov

#### **Unemployment Rate - June 2025**



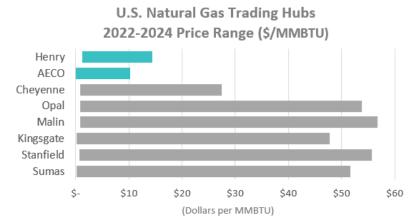
- Customer growth rates historically exceed National Averages.
- Projected population growth in our service territories better than the National Average.
- Unemployment rates better than National Average

# NorthWestern's Combo Advantage

- ✓ Combination electric & natural gas provider in Montana & South Dakota (natural gas only in Nebraska)
  - Targeting best-in-class Customer Experience
  - Opportunity to invest in critical Capacity expansion (supply & transmission)
  - Continued Grid Evolution to improve resiliency and enhance wildfire mitigation efforts
  - Transforming our Digital Platform to enhance cyber-security & technology solutions
- ✓ Natural hedge between natural gas to electric conversions
- ✓ Primarily residential with commercial & industrial customers across many industries

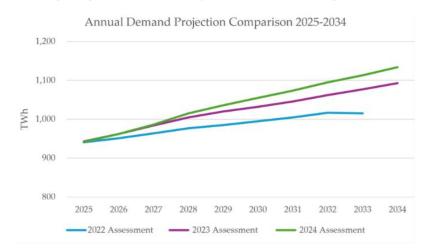


- Investment in production\*, transmission, & distribution
- Extreme winters necessitate economical gas heating
- Energy Choice (Ban the Ban) laws in MT, SD, & NE
- Access to low & less volatile natural gas pricing
  - AECO & Henry Hub (Ventura)





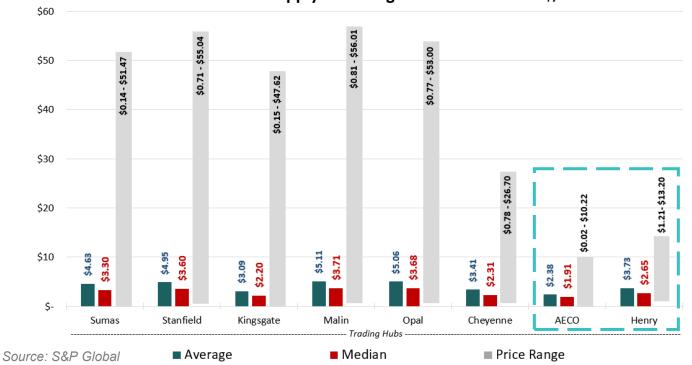
- Investment in generation, transmission, & distribution
- Highly diverse & carbon-free electric supply portfolio
- Broad footprint spanning multiple reliability & transmission regions / organizations
- Growing regional capacity deficit requiring investment



Source: Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC)

# Natural Gas LDC – AECO Advantage to Customers



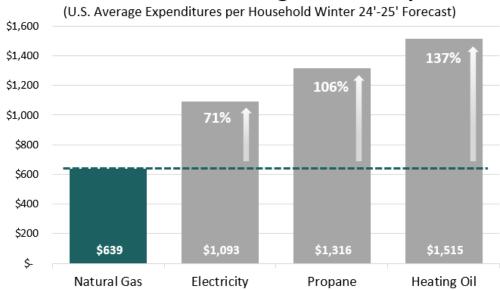


We have facilitated the connection of renewable natural gas (RNG) producers to our South Dakota system. We anticipate that their facilities may provide enough volume to supply two-thirds of our residential load requirements in South Dakota by the end of 2025.

To reduce costs to our customers, we currently do not purchase the environmental attributes associated with the gas produced at these facilities, and therefore we are supplying "brown gas" to our customers.

Natural gas is one of the most affordable energy sources, and NWE has access to some of the lowest and most stable natural gas prices in the nation through the Alberta Energy Company (AECO) and Henry trading hubs.

#### **Household Heating Affordability**



Percentages show amount above natural gas. Source: U.S. EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook - April 2025

# **Best Practices Governance**

#### **Diverse Leadership**

# Best Score Among 50 Publicly Traded North American Utility and Power Companies by

**Moody's Investment Services for Best Governance Practices** 

#### **Recent Governance Recognition**



#### **America's Most Responsible Companies**

Recognized by **Newsweek** as one of the most responsible companies in 2023. One of only eleven EEI member utilities selected.



#### **Great Place To Work Certified**

Recognized by Great Place To Work as one of the world's greatest workplaces in 2025.



#### 50 / 50 - Women on Boards

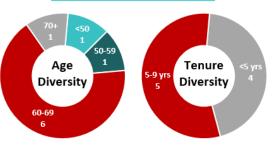
Recognized for gender diversity on its board of directors by 2022 Women on Boards. Currently four of the company's nine directors are female.

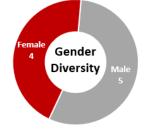


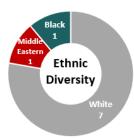
#### **Edison Electric Institute Emergency Response Award recipient**

Recognized in 2023 and 2025 for swift restoration efforts following a derecho in South Dakota (May 2022), historic flooding in Yellowstone National Park (June 2022), and a hurricane-force windstorm in Missoula, MT (July 2024). These awards highlight the company's commitment to reliability, resilience, and customer service in the face of extreme weather challenges.

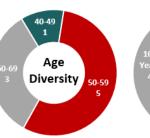
#### **Board of Directors**



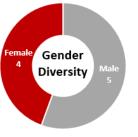




#### **Executive Team**









2024 CEO Pay
Ratio to Median
Employee Salary

NWE 34:1

U.S. Utilities Average in '24 72:1 13 Member Peer Group Average in '24

43:1

CEO Pay to Peers 88%

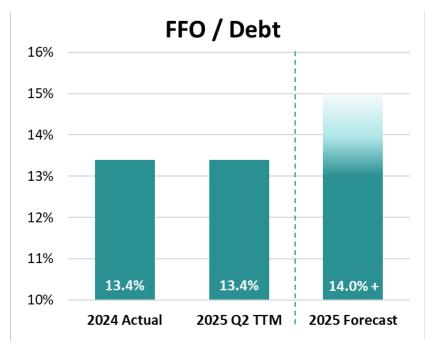


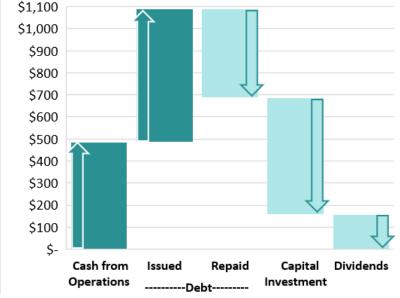
# Financial & Regulatory Update

# Credit, Cash Flow, and Financing Plans

## **Credit Ratings**

		Moody's	<u> </u>	<u>Fitch</u>
	Issuer	-	BBB	BBB
NWEG (Hold-Co.)	Secured	-	-	-
	Unsecured	-	-	BBB
	Outlook	-	Stable	Stable
	Issuer	Baa2	BBB	BBB
NW Corp.	Secured	A3	A-	A-
(MT Op-Co.)	Unsecured	Baa2	-	BBB+
	Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable
	Issuer	Baa2	BBB	BBB
NWEPS	Secured	A3	A-	А-
(SDNE Op-Co.)	Unsecured	-	-	BBB+
	Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable





2025 Financing Plan (Millions)

FFO: Cash from Operations less Working Capital Adjustments.

Debt: Long- & Short-term Debt (including unamortized debt issuance costs and pension liability).

# S&P upgraded outlook to Positive<sup>1</sup>, Moody's and Fitch remain Stable. No equity expected to fund the current \$2.74 billion 5-year capital plan.

Financing plans (targeting a FFO to Debt ratio > 14%) are expected to maintain our current credit ratings. We expect to pay minimal cash taxes into 2028 due to utilization of our NOL's and tax credits. Financing plans are subject to change.

1.) August 19, 2025. Positive Outlook for NorthWestern energy Group and NorthWestern Corporation. NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corp. remains Stable Outlook.

# Montana Electric Rate Review

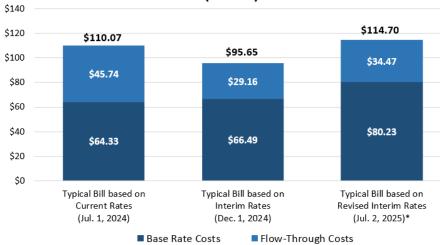
Category	Current Rates	Partial Settlement - Pending Approval				
Test Year (Trailing Twelve Months)	December 2021	December 2023				
Return on Equity <sup>1</sup> 9.65%		9.65%				
Equity Ratio <sup>1</sup> 48.02%		47.84%				
Cost of Debt 1 4.01%		4.57%				
Rate of Return 1	6.72%	6.98%				
Authorized Rate Base (Millions)	\$2,842	\$3,481				
		Pass-through Costs				
(Millions)		Base Rates	PCCAM	Prop. Tax Tracker	Total	
NWE Rebuttal Request		\$153.8	(\$94.5)	(\$1.3)	\$58.0	
NWE Partial Settlement Position		\$110.3	(\$94.5)	(\$1.2)	\$14.6	
Intervenor Partial Settlement Position A <sup>2</sup>		\$97.9	(\$94.5)	(\$1.8)	\$1.6	
Intervenor Partial Settlement Position B <sup>3</sup>		\$98.7	(\$132.9)	(\$1.8)	(\$36.0)	

<sup>1)</sup> Excludes Colstrip Unit 4 Lifetime 10% ROE, 6.5% cost of debt, and 50% equity capital structure.

The remaining Joint Settlement Party is Walmart, Inc.

MPSC approval of the partial Joint Party Settlement, along with NorthWestern's proposals for YCGS and PCCAM, would allow for recovery of increased operating costs and an opportunity to earn a fair return on the investment that funds the critical energy infrastructure in Montana.

# Typical Residential Monthly Electric Bill (750kW)



<sup>\*</sup>Reflects NWE's partial settlement position which is pending approval for final rates.

Current Rates
Proposed Partial Settlement
\$ Increase (Decrease)
% Increase (Decrease)

Base	Flow-Through	Typical Resi.
Rates	Costs	Monthly Bill
\$64.33	\$45.74	\$110.07
\$80.23	<u>\$34.47</u>	<u>\$114.70</u>
\$15.89	(\$11.27)	\$4.63
24.7%	-24.6%	4.2%

#### **Key Dates**

- 6/9/25 6/18/25: MPSC Public Hearings
- 7/2/25: Implementation of revised interim rates (\$110.3 million subject to refund)
- 7/21/25: NWE opening brief submitted
- 8/11/25: Intervenor response briefs submitted
- 8/26/25: NWE response submitted

<sup>2)</sup> Reflects the Large Customer Group's and Federal Executive Agencies' joint settlement position regarding remaining contested issues.

<sup>3)</sup> Reflects the Montana Consumer Counsel's settlement position regarding remaining contested issues.

# Montana Natural Gas Rate Review

Category Current Rates		Settlement - Pending Approval		
Test Year (Trailing Twelve Months)	December 2021	December 2023		
Return on Equity	9.55%	9.60%		
Equity Ratio	48.02%	47.84%		
Cost of Debt	4.01%	4.57%		
Rate of Return	6.67%	6.98%		
Authorized Rate Base (Millions) \$583		\$753		
		Pass-through Costs		
(Millions)		Base Rates	Prop. Tax Tracker	Total
NWE Rebuttal Request		\$27.9	\$0.1	\$28.0
Joint Settlement Position		\$18.0	\$0.1	\$18.1

Joint Settlement Parties include the Montana Consumer Counsel, Large Customer Group, Federal Executive Agencies, and Walmart, Inc.

MPSC approval of the Joint Party Settlement would allow for recovery of increased operating costs and an opportunity to earn a fair return on the investment that funds the critical energy infrastructure in Montana.

# Typical Residential Monthly Natural Gas Bill (65 therms)



Current Rates
Proposed Partial Settlement
\$ Increase (Decrease)
% Increase (Decrease)

	Base	Flow-Inrough	Typical Resi.
	Rates	Costs	Monthly Bill
nt Rates	\$32.77	\$19.12	\$51.89
<u>tlement</u>	<u>\$37.26</u>	<u>\$19.37</u>	<u>\$56.63</u>
crease)	\$4.49	\$0.25	\$4.74
crease)	13.7%	1.3%	9.1%

#### **Key Dates**

- 6/9/25 6/18/25: MPSC Public Hearings
- 7/2/25: Interim rates remain in place as implemented Dec. 1, 2024 (\$17.4 million subject to refund)
- 7/21/25: NWE opening brief submitted
- 8/11/25: Intervenor response briefs due
- 8/26/25: NWE response submitted

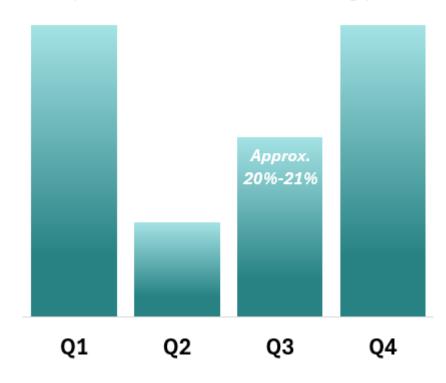
# Strong Growth Outlook

# Affirming 2025 Non-GAAP EPS Guidance<sup>1</sup> of \$3.53 - \$3.65 per diluted share

- ✓ Affirming long-term growth rates from 2024 base²
  - EPS growth of 4% to 6%
  - Rate base growth of <u>4% to 6%</u>
  - Continued focus on closing the gap between earned & authorized returns
- ✓ **No equity expected** to fund the current 5-year | \$2.74 billion capital plan
  - Capital plan sized to be funded by cash from operations, aided by income tax net operating losses, and secured debt
  - Incremental capital opportunities may result in equity financing
- ✓ Expect to maintain FFO / Debt > 14% in 2025 and beyond
- ✓ Earnings growth is expected to exceed dividend growth until we return to our targeted 60% to 70% payout ratio

# **Anticipated 2025 EPS Distribution**

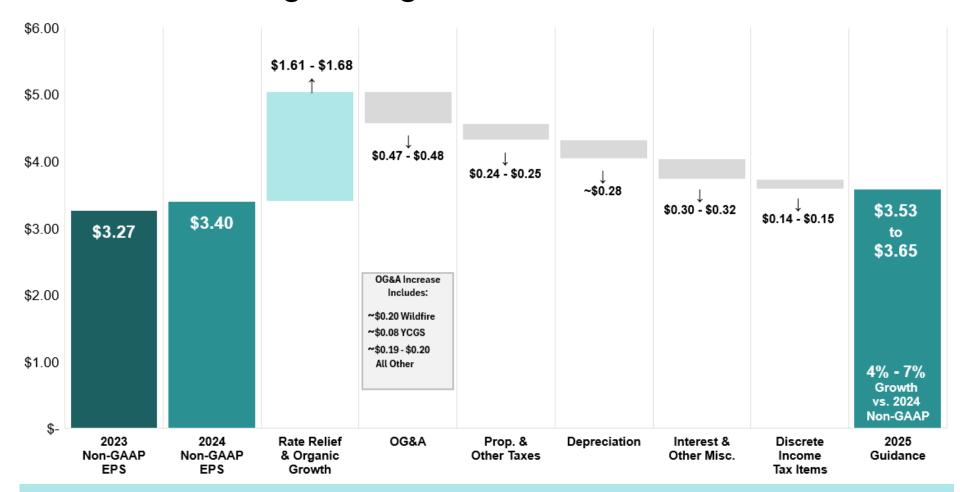
(As a % of Full-Year Non-GAAP Earnings)



<sup>1.)</sup> See "2025 Earnings Bridge" that follows for additional details and major assumptions included in guidance.

<sup>2.)</sup> Based on 2024 Adjusted Diluted Non-GAAP EPS of \$3.40 and estimated rate base of \$5.38 billion. See "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" in appendix.

# 2025 Earnings Bridge



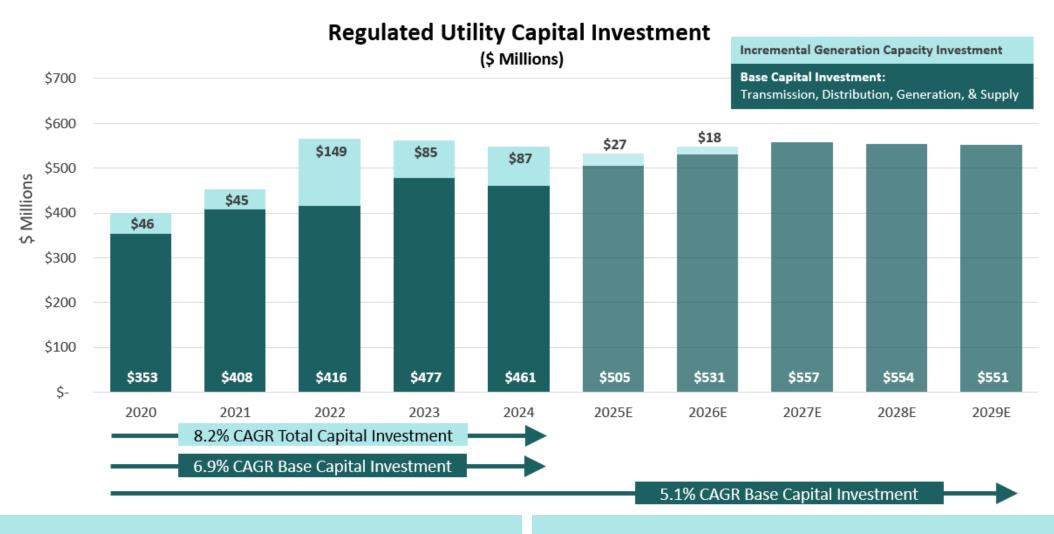
# This guidance range is based upon, but not limited to, the following major assumptions:

- Final approval of all material aspects of <u>NorthWestern's</u> <u>settlement position</u> in the currently pending Montana general rate review;
- Normal weather in our service territories;
- An effective income tax rate of approximately 12%-15%; and
- Diluted average shares outstanding of approximately 61.5 million.

<sup>2025</sup> guidance represents 4% to 7% EPS growth from 2024 Non-GAAP Base Year<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1.)</sup> Based on 2024 Adjusted Diluted Non-GAAP EPS of \$3.40. See "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" in appendix.

# Track Record of Growing Capital Investment



\$2.53 Billion invested over the last 5 years\*

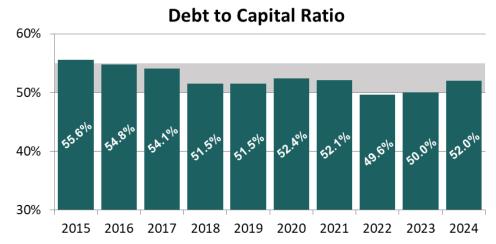
\$2.74 Billion forecasted over the next 5 years\*\*

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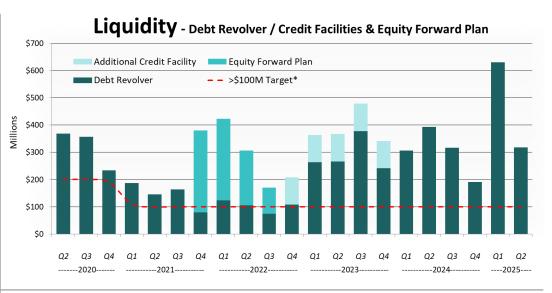
<sup>\*</sup> Historical Capital Investment includes property, plant, and equipment additions and AFUDC Credit, both from our cash flow statement, and change in capital expenditures included in accounts payable.

<sup>\*\*</sup> See "Regulated Utility Five-Year Capital Forecast" slide in the appendix for additional detail.

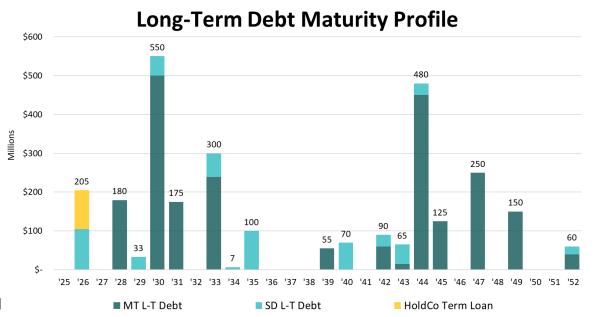
# Solid Balance Sheet



Target: 50% - 55% - Annual ratio based on average of each quarter's debt/cap ratio Excludes Basin Creek capital lease and New Market Tax Credit Financing



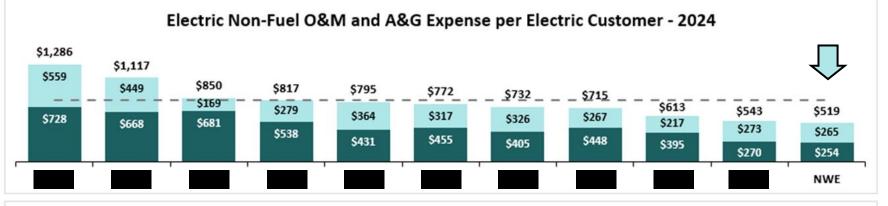
\* Liquidity target was raised to \$200 million during the height of the Covid pandemic

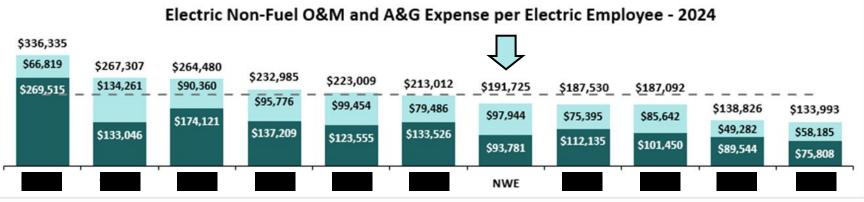


Data as of June 30, 2025

Investment grade credit ratings, liquidity significantly greater than our \$100 million target, debt to capitalization within our targeted 50%-55% range, and a manageable schedule of debt maturities.

# Disciplined Expense Program







Per Customer...
Per Employee...
Per Rate Base...

NorthWestern ranks favorably among our regional peers for electric expense efficiency.



Source: FERC Form 1 Reports - 2024 expenses through S&P Capital IQ Pro, company 10-Ks, and company investor presentations.

Non-Fuel O&M and A&G Expense excludes fuel, purchased power, direct transmission, and property taxes.

# Large Load Customers

## Montana

- Expected to be served by overall utility portfolio, which is projected to be long capacity beginning in 2026
- Current generating portfolio over 60% carbon free
- If data center demand interest develops beyond existing capacity, we will work with the Montana Public Service Commission to structure appropriate tariffs

## ✓ South Dakota

- Significant indications of interest
- Any new large load customers would require incremental capacity with infrastructure rider to provide generation cost recovery.
- South Dakota PUC has an established process for large load customers with a deviated rate tariff

## ✓ Confidentially Announced: December 17, 2024

- Company: Sabey Data Centers
- Load: 50 MW expected to grow to 250 MW
- Start Date: Mid-2027
- Agreement Status: Letter of Intent

#### ✓ Announced: December 19, 2024

- Company: Atlas Power
- Load: 75 MW expected to grow to 150 MW
- Start Date: January 2026
- Agreement Status: Letter of Intent (Existing transmission customer)

## ✓ Announced: July 30, 2025

- Company: Quantica Infrastructure
- Load: 175MW growing to 500MW by 2030
- Start Date: 2028
- Agreement Status: Letter of Intent





# NWE - BKH Merger & Other Updates

# Merger with Black Hills Benefits Stakeholders

# Increases Scale Position and Growth

Increases the combined company target EPS growth rate to 5-7%, supported by the doubling of each company's rate base to total of ~\$11 bn with significant growth opportunities

# **Expands Investment Opportunity**

Leverages enhanced resources to make strategic investments that foster economic development, including addressing the growing demand for energy, including from data centers

# Substantial Long-Term Value for Customers

Bringing together two complementary teams focused on reliability and exceptional customer service to deliver even greater value.

# **Strengthens Balance Sheet**

Strong and predictable cash flows support a customer-focused capital investment program while producing high-quality, investment-grade credit metrics

# **Enhances Business Diversity**

Delivering energy to more than 2.1 mm customers across multiple contiguous jurisdictions, served by a highly skilled workforce focused on safety and reliability

Strategic combination represents a highly attractive value creation opportunity for both companies.

# Montana Wildfire Bill

# **No Strict Liability:**

• Confirms strict liability *cannot* be applied to utility operations related to wildfire

## **Legal Protections for Providers:**

- Negligence standard based on Montana specific circumstances
- Rebuttable presumption utility acted reasonably if it substantially followed a MPSC approved wildfire mitigation plan (burden of proof rests on plaintiffs)
- 3-year statute of limitations from date of damage

# Damages:

- Economic: Property damage (market value or restoration) and fire control costs
- Noneconomic: Only if bodily injury or death occurs
- Punitive: Only with clear & convincing evidence of gross negligence or intent

NorthWestern's 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan was filed in August and is expected to be updated every three years going forward.

HB 490 was passed by the Montana Legislature with broad bipartisan support in both the House (90-0) and Senate (40-8) and has been signed into law. The new law clarifies and limits wildfire-related risks, protecting our customers, communities and investors.



# Transmission Bill

Allows Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) for electric transmission to be issued by the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC)

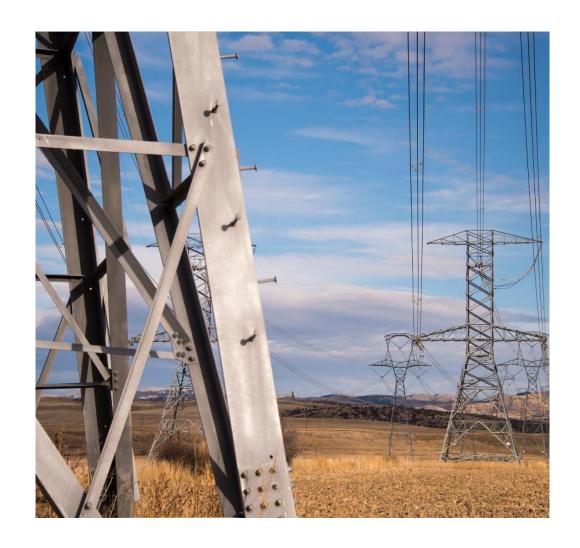
Greater confidence of fair and equitable return
 Bill allows greater confidence for investors providing
 the critical capital necessary for the continued
 modernization of the energy grid

## Approvals

MPSC shall determine within 300 days of application if transmission projects (greater than 69 kV) are in public interest and may grant or deny a CPCN

Cost clarity post CPCN
 Within 90 days of applicat

Within 90 days of application, the MPSC shall issue an order responding to a utilities request for advanced approval of prudent cost recovery



# Data Center Process (Montana & South Dakota)



















# Data Center Request

- Load & Location
- Supply Potential
- Customer/Developer Required Timing

**Queue Count: 9** 

# High-Level Assessment

- Viability Assessment
- SPP Screening
- High Level \$ Estimate
- Development Costs

**Queue Count: 4** 

#### **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

- Supply Development Estimates
- SIS/FS Studies
- SD SPP DPNS
- Contract Negotiations

**Queue Count: 3** 

# **Energy Service Agreement (ESA)**

- Regulatory Approvals (as needed)
- Contract Signing
- Business Development Handoff

**Queue Count: 0** 

#### Construction

- PM Assignment
- Construction Kick-Off
- Supply Development
  - Generation Build Process

**Queue Count: 0** 

SPP: Southwest Power Pool SIS: System Impact Study

FS: Facilities Study SD: South Dakota

DPNS: Delivery Point Network Study PM: Project Management

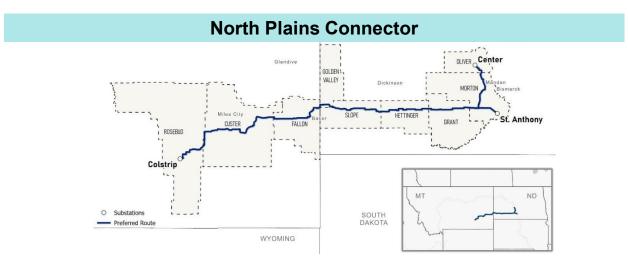
# Regional Transmission Opportunities

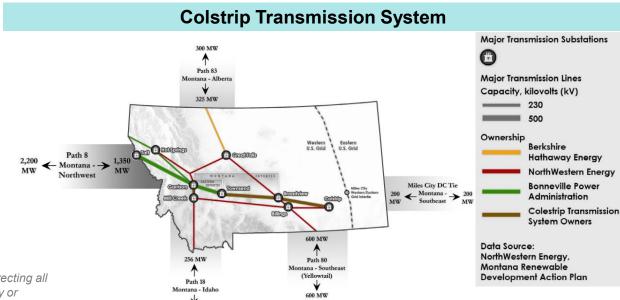
#### North Plains Connector (NPC) Consortium Project

- \$3.6 billion, 415-mile, high-voltage direct-current transmission line connecting to Montana's Colstrip substation, bridging the eastern and western U.S. energy grids
- Project awarded \$700M Grid Resilience & Innovation Partnership grant by U.S. Department of Energy<sup>1</sup>
  - \$70.0 million of the award is earmarked for upgrades to the Colstrip Transmission System (of which we are ~30% owner)

In December 2024, NorthWestern announced a memorandum of understanding to own 10% of the North Plains Connector. The project, targeting a 2032 in-service date, strengthens grid reliability and efficiency.

A separate partnership will explore expanding Montana's southwest transmission corridor to bolster reliability, allow for critical import capability, and enhance Western market access.





383 MW

1.) President Trump issued an Executive Order on January 20, 2025, "Unleashing American Energy," directing all federal executive agency heads to review all agency actions implicating energy reliability and affordability or potentially burdening the development of domestic energy resources. This Executive Order has delayed the disbursement of the funds granted by the U.S. Department of Energy for the NPC Consortium project.

# Colstrip Transaction Overview

NorthWestern Energy entered into agreements to acquire Avista and Puget Sound Energy's ownership interests in Colstrip Units 3 and 4.

**Avista** 

Announcement Date: January 2023

Effective Date: December 31, 2025

Generating Capacity: 222 MW

(111 MW of each CU 3 & 4)

Acquisition Price: \$0.0

**Puget Sound** 

**July 2024** 

**December 31, 2025** 

370 MW

(185 MW of each CU 3 & 4)

\$0.0

These no-cost acquisitions will allow us to leverage existing infrastructure in Montana that is available when our customers need energy the most at an affordable cost.

The acquisitions are subject to customary conditions and approvals, including approval from the FERC. NorthWestern will have the right to exercise Avista's and Puget Sound's votes with respect to capital expenditures between now and 2025 with both Avista and Puget Sound responsible for its pro rata share. Avista and Puget Sound will retain their respective existing environmental and decommissioning obligations through life of plant.





#### Reliability

NorthWestern has considerable low-cost wind and solar generation on our system today, but that generation is variable. Colstrip's generation provides power for our customers when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

#### **Affordability**

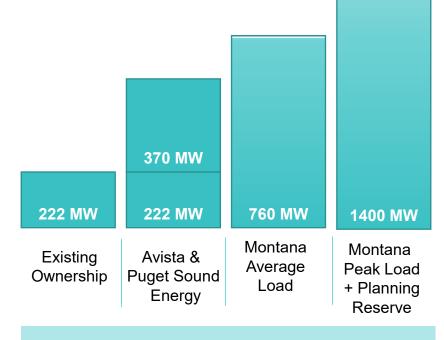
As other states require a transition away from coal resources at a pace faster than is feasible in Montana, this no-cost acquisition allows our customers to transition to a cleaner energy future at a pace that works for Montanans.

#### Sustainability

Colstrip is a dependable bridge to a cleaner energy future, which could ultimately include new lower- or no-carbon emitting resources such as gas-fired generation, small modular nuclear reactors, long-duration storage or other technologies, which we believe could be located in the Colstrip area. But this will take time, and we will not sacrifice service reliability during the transition.

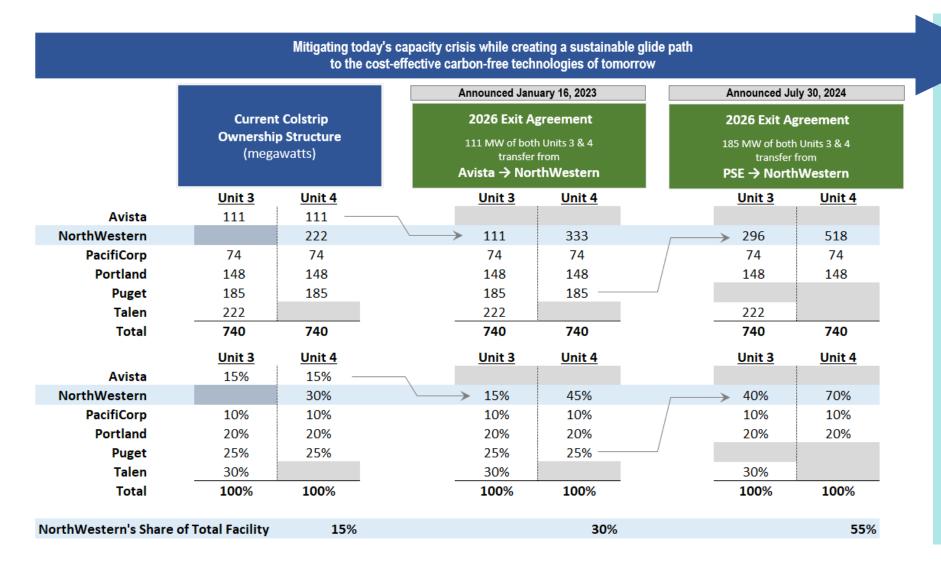
# Incremental Colstrip Capacity

- ✓ <u>No cost acquisition</u> of incremental Colstrip ownership allows us to reliably and affordably serve existing customers
  - Provides energy independence & improves system reliability / integrity
  - Moves portfolio from short capacity position to long capacity
  - Maintains affordability while insulating customers from volatile capacity and energy market pricing
- ✓ Increased ownership (from 15% to 55%) is expected to protect existing interest and provide Montana control to keep the plant open beyond Washington and Oregon mandated closure deadlines
- ✓ Significant capacity surplus provides opportunity for new large-load customers, spreading fixed costs over more kilowatt-hours, lowering and stabilizing the cost per unit for all our customers
- ✓ A waiver request has been filed with the MPSC to allow recovery of the Avista portion of O&M costs¹ starting January 1, 2026 when it begins serving regulated load requirements. We anticipate recovering the Puget portion of fuel and O&M costs through FERC regulated rates.



NorthWestern's planned no cost acquisition of 592 MW of additional Colstrip capacity supports the integration of large-load customers, delivering substantial benefits to our customers, communities, and investors.

# Colstrip Facility Ownership Overview

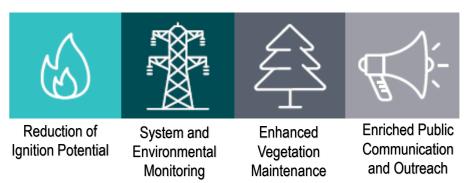


**55%** 

In January 2026, we will own 55% of Colstrip Units 3 & 4.

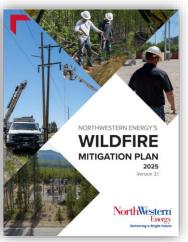
This allows us to guide investments in operation and maintenance in providing ondemand, 24/7 cost-effective generation for our Montana customers until a viable equivalent, carbon-free energy resource is available.

# Montana Wildfire Mitigation Plan



- ✓ Comprehensive summary of robust wildfire mitigation activities
- √ New plan to be filed every three years (last filed in August 2025)
- ✓ Key elements of the plan, driven by risk analysis include:
  - Situational Awareness
  - Operational Practices
  - System Preparedness
- Vegetation Management
- Communication & Outreach
- **✓** Minimal exposure to Tier 1\* wildfire risk

1.8% of Distribution System segments3.9% of Transmission System segments



NorthWesternEnergy.com/Wildfire

**PSPS** 

Enhanced
Powerline
Safety Settings

Situational Awareness to Inform Operational Decision Making

Grid Hardening, Vegetation Management, and Technology Deployment

#### **Operational Wildfire Defense Strategies Hierarchy**

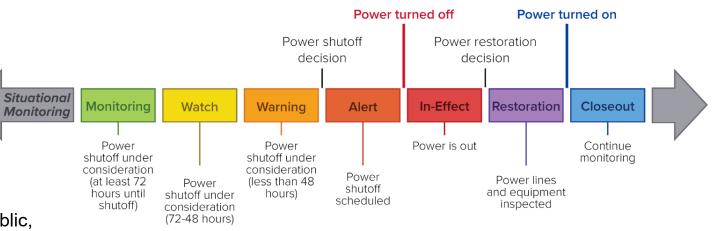
Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) considerations include environmental conditions, system performance, and mitigating any potential impacts of an outage to customers and emergency services.

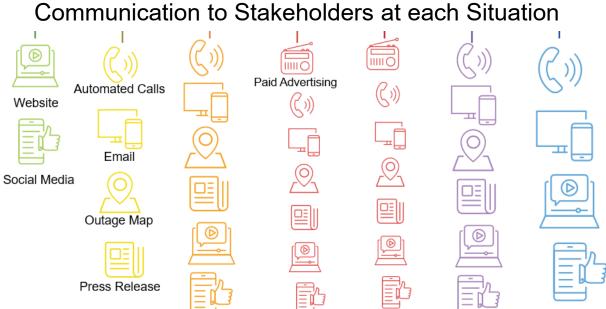
# Montana Public Safety Power Shutoff Plan

#### **PSPS** Decision Process

#### **PSPS Guiding Principles:**

- Uphold our commitment to sustainable, affordable, and reliable service
- Ensure the safety of our employees, customers, communities, the public, and the environment
- Maintain a robust situational awareness strategy for monitoring and quantifying conditions and risks
- Follow a disciplined operational strategy for executing PSPS events
- Adhere to a consistent communication strategy to ensure that communications are clear, timely, and accurate







Weather / Environment + System Performance +Customer / Community Impact = Determines PSPS Event







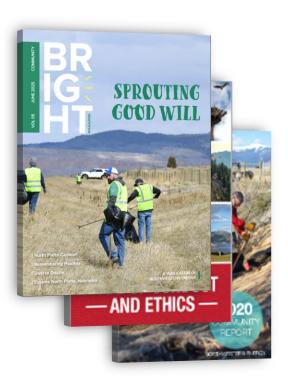
# Appendix

# **Corporate Sustainability**

### **Environmental**



### Social

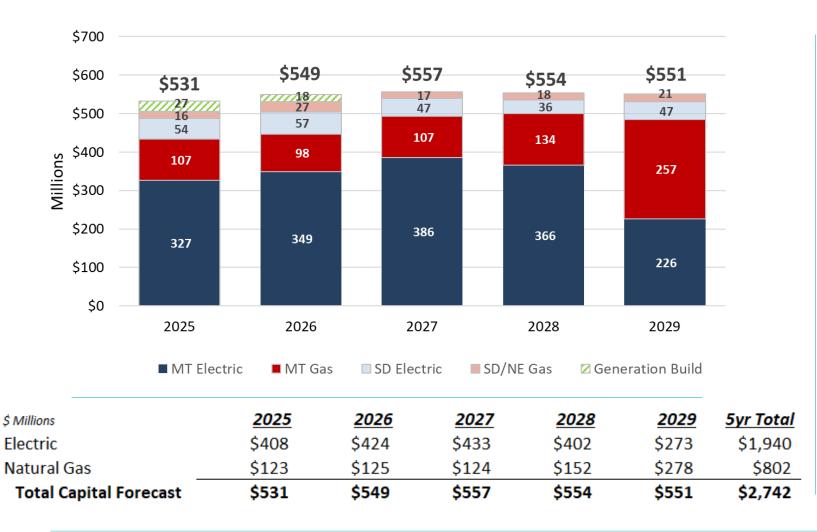


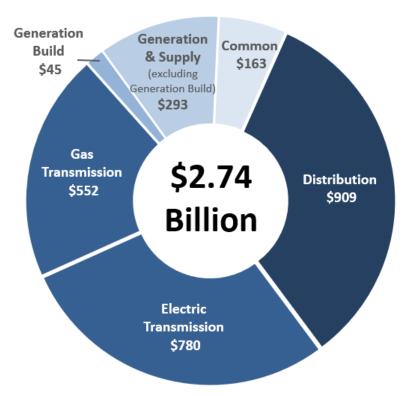
### Governance



These eight publications provide valuable insight into NorthWestern Energy's Sustainability practices. The Sustainability Report includes Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) and Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) aligned reporting.

# Regulated Utility Five-Year Capital Forecast (millions)





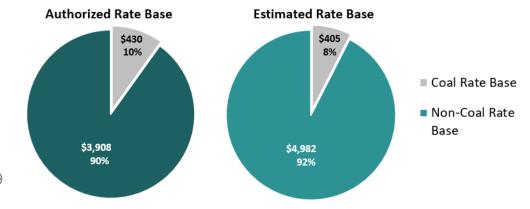
### Rate Base & Authorized Return Summary

Estimate as of 12/31/2024

		Autho	orized		ar-End timated	Authorized Overall	Authorized	Authorized
	Implementation	Rate	Base	Rat	e Base	Rate of	Return on	Equity
Jurisdiction and Service	Date	(milli	ions)	(m	illions)	Return	Equity	Level
Montana electric delivery and production <sup>(1)</sup>	November 2023	\$ 2,	565.5	\$	3,330.9	6.72%	9.65%	48.02%
Montana - Colstrip Unit 4	November 2023	\$	276.9	\$	257.8	8.25%	10.00%	50.00%
Montana natural gas delivery and production <sup>(2)</sup>	November 2023	\$	582.8	\$	814.8	6.67%	9.55%	48.02%
Total Montana		\$ 3,	425.2	\$	4,403.5			
South Dakota electric <sup>(3)</sup>	January 2024	\$	791.8	\$	813.1	6.81%	n/a	n/a
South Dakota natural gas <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	December 2024	\$	96.2	\$	117.6	6.91%	n/a	n/a
Total South Dakota		\$	0.888	\$	930.7			
Nebraska natural gas <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	December 2007	\$	24.3	\$	52.5	8.49%	10.40%	n/a
Total NorthWestern Energy		\$ 4,	337.5	\$	5,386.7			

- (1) The revenue requirement associated with the FERC regulated portion of Montana electric transmission and ancillary services are included as revenue credits to our MPSC jurisdictional customers. Therefore, we do not separately reflect FERC authorized rate base or authorized returns.
- (2) The Montana gas revenue requirement includes a step down which approximates annual depletion of our natural gas production assets included in rate base.
- (3) For those items marked as "n/a," the respective settlement and/or order was not specific as to these terms.
- (4) In June 2024, we filed a South Dakota natural gas rate review filing (2023 test year) with the SDPUC and a Nebraska natural gas rate review filing (2023 test year) with the NEPSC.

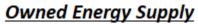
### Coal Generation Rate Base as a percentage of Total Rate Base



Revenue from coal generation is not easily identifiable due to the use of bundled rates in South Dakota and other rate design and accounting considerations. However, NorthWestern is a fully regulated utility company for which rate base is the primary driver of earnings. The data to the left illustrates that NorthWestern only derives approximately 8-10% of earnings from its jointly owned coal generation rate base.

# 2024 System Statistics







**Transmission** 



**Distribution** 

Electric (MW)	MT	SD	Total	Trans for Others	MT	SD	Total
Base load coal	222	210	432	Electric (GWh)	14,943	23	14,966
Wind	51	80	131	Natural Gas (Bcf)	50	<i>3</i> 5	85
Hydro	467	-	467				
Natural gas	325	118	443				
Other resources	_	12	12	System (miles)	MT	<u>SD</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1,065	420	1,485	Electric	6,596	1,349	7,945
				Natural gas	2,133	55	2,188
Natural Gas (Bcf)	MT	<u>SD</u>	<u>Total</u>	Total	8,729	1,404	10,133
Proven reserves	28.2	-	28.2				
Annual production	2.6	-	2.6				
Storage	17.9	-	17.9				

Note: Statistics above are as of 12/31/2024

Demand	MT	SD / NE	Total
Daily MWs	759	200	959
Peak MWs	1,300	325	1,625
Annual GWhs	6,650	1,750	8,400
Annual Bcf	22	10	32
Customers	<u>MT</u>	SD / NE	<u>Total</u>
Electric	413,400	65,300	478,700
Natural gas	214,500	93,800	308,300
Total	627,900	159,100	787,000
System (miles)	<u>MT</u>	SD / NE	<u>Total</u>
Electric	18,794	2,386	21,180
Natural gas	5,221	2,626	7,847
Total	24,015	5,012	29,027

<sup>(1)</sup> Nebraska is a natural gas only jurisdiction

<sup>(2)</sup> Dave Gates Generating Station (DGGS) in Montana is a 150 MW nameplate facility but consider it a 105 MW (60 MW FERC & 45MW MPSC jurisdictions) peaker

# Our Net-Zero Vision

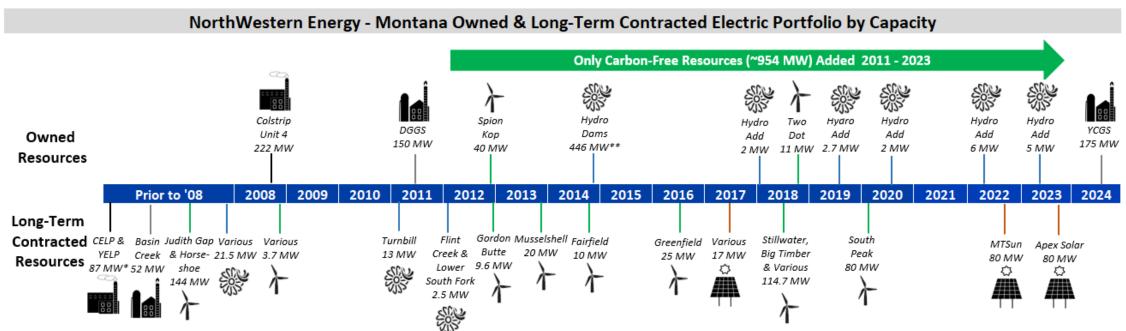


Over the past 100 years, NorthWestern Energy has maintained our commitment to provide customers with reliable and affordable electric and natural gas service while also being good stewards of the environment. We have responded to climate change, its implications and risks, by increasing our environmental sustainability efforts and our access to clean energy resources. But more must be done. We are committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.



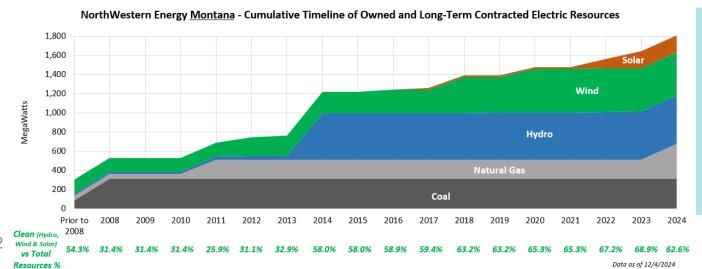
- Committed to achieving net zero by 2050 for Scope 1 and 2 emissions
- Must balance Affordability, Reliability, and Sustainability in this transition
- No new carbon emitting generation additions after 2035
- Pipeline modernization, enhanced leak detection, and development of alternative fuels for natural gas business
- · Electrify fleet and add charging infrastructure
- Carbon offsets likely needed to ultimately achieve net-zero
- Please visit <u>www.NorthWesternEnergy.com/NetZero</u> to learn more about our Net Zero Vision

### Timeline of Montana Generation Portfolio



<sup>\*</sup> Federally mandated Qualifying Facilities contracts with CELP (Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership) and YELP (Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership) expire in 2024 and 2028, respectively.

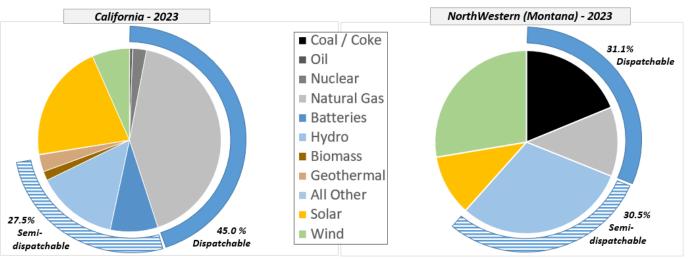
<sup>\*\*</sup> Excludes 194 MW Kerr Dam which was purchased and subsequently transferred to the Salish & Kootenai Tribes in 2015.



Since 2011, we have added approximately 1,129 MW, both owned and long-term contracted, to our generation portfolio, of which 954 MW (~84%) is from carbon-free resources.

# **Comparison of Installed Capacity**

	Comparison	of Install	ed Capacity (	MW) - Dis	oatchab	ility and Car	bon Emit	ting			
		Cali	fornia		NorthWestern Energy (Montana)						
	MW		Percent		_	MW		Percent			
	<u>2023</u>	of Total	<u>Dispatchable</u>	Non-Carbon		<u>2023</u>	of Total	<u>Dispatchable</u>	Non-Carbo		
Coal / Coke	63	0.1%	0.1%			309	18.8%	18.8%			
Oil	492	0.5%	0.5%				0.0%				
Nuclear	2,323	2.4%	2.4%				0.0%				
Natural Gas	40,097	42.0%	42.0%			202	12.3%	12.3%			
Batteries	8,011	8.4%		8.4%			0.0%				
Hydro	13,777	14.4%		14.4%		502	30.5%		30.5%		
Biomass	1,538	1.6%		1.6%			0.0%				
Geothermal	2,873	3.0%		3.0%			0.0%				
All Other	99	0.1%		0.1%			0.0%				
Solar	19,940	20.9%		20.9%		177	10.8%		10.8%		
Wind	6,315	6.6%		6.6%		454	27.6%		27.6%		
	95,527	100.0%	45.0%	55.0%	-	1,644	100.0%	31.1%	68.9%		
	Californ	ia - 2023				NorthWes	NorthWestern (Montana) - 2023				

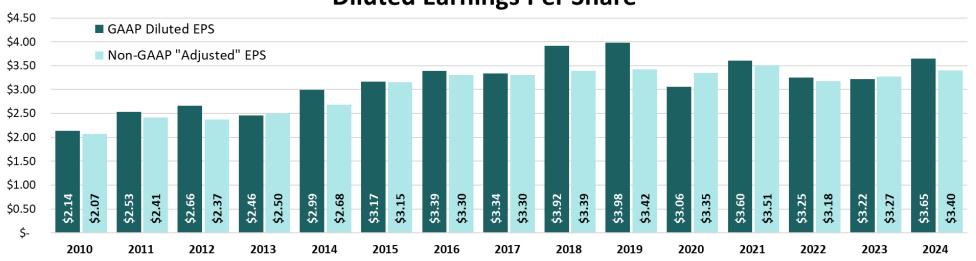


Source: EIA.gov – 2023 Form EIA-860 Data - Schedule 3 for calendar year 2023 as of 8/25/2025.

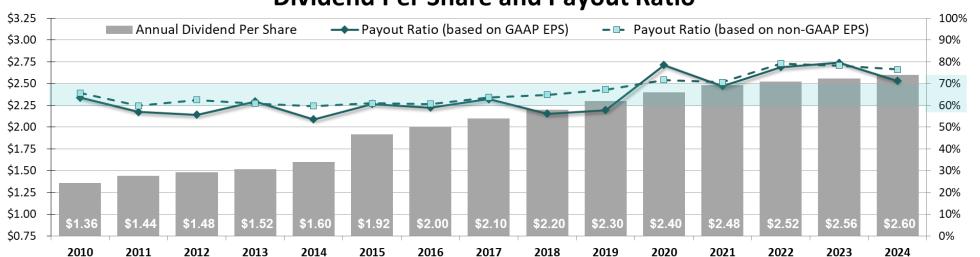
California is dealing with significant capacity issues DESPITE having a greater amount of dispatchable generation and fewer renewables than NorthWestern Energy in Montana (as a percentage of the total).

# **EPS & Dividend History**





### **Dividend Per Share and Payout Ratio**



2010-2024 CAGR's:

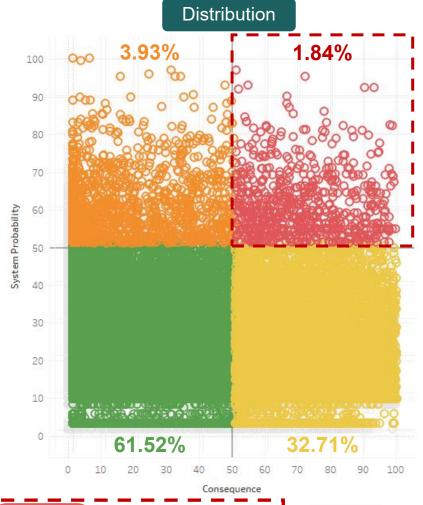
<u>GAAP EPS:</u> 3.9%

Non-GAAP EPS: 3.6%

Dividend: 4.7%

See appendix for "Non-GAAP Financial Measures"

# Wildfire Risk Assessment



In Montana, only
1.84% of our
Distribution system
and 3.94% of our
Transmission
system is exposed
to Tier 1 wildfire
risk\*.



### Tier 1: High System Probability, High Consequence

- All hardening strategies
- Maximum assessments
- Highest environmental monitoring

Tier 2: High System Probability, Low Consequence

- Most hardening strategies
- Maximum assessments
- Moderate environmental monitoring

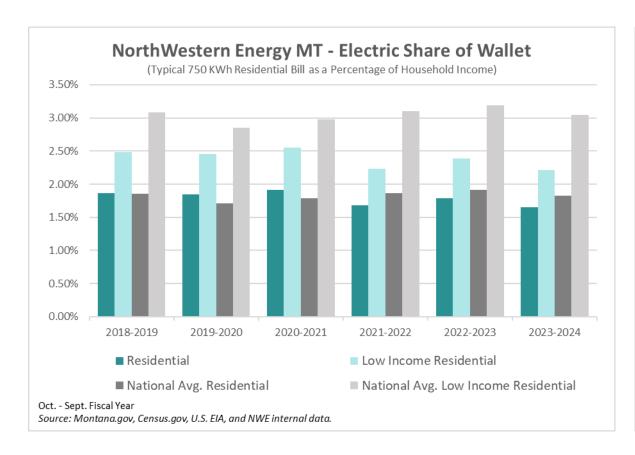
Tier 3: Low System Probability, High Consequence

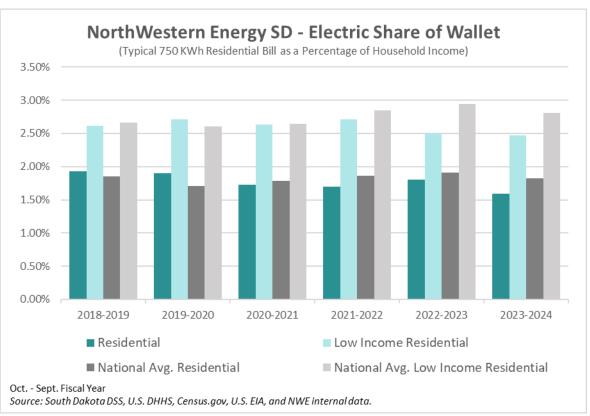
- Targeted protection strategies
- Normal assessments
- Highest environmental monitoring

Tier 4: Low System Probability, Low Consequence

- Hardening as needed
- Normal assessments
- Lower environmental monitoring

# Appendix Electric Wallet Share



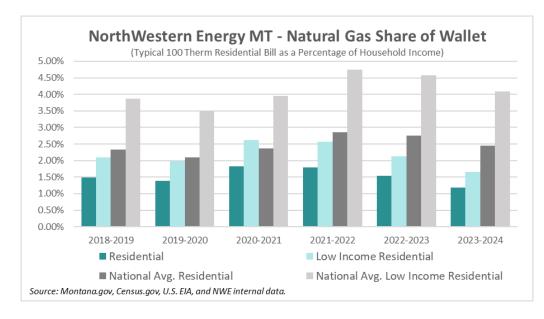


### 18'-24' Average Wallet Share:

	Residential	Residential Low Income
MT	<b>1.79%</b>	<b>2.39%</b>
SD	1.78%	<b>2.61</b> %
Nat. Avg.	1.82%	2.90%

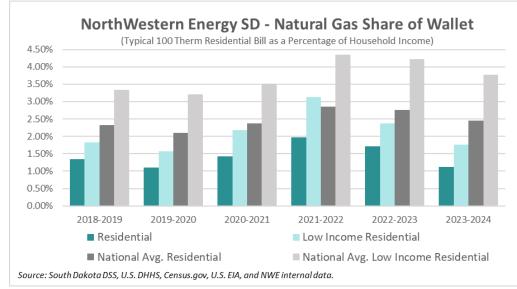
### Natural Gas Wallet Share

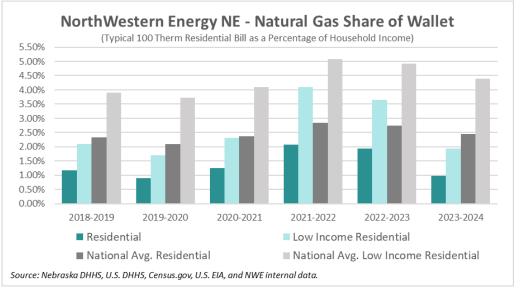
### 18'-24' Average Wallet Share:



Note: Montana typical bill is based on 65 therms which translates to ~0.50% lower wallet share than pictured. For consistency with South Dakota and Nebraska, 100 therms is used for Montana in this illustration.

Oct. - Sept. Fiscal Year





# Experienced and Engaged Board of Directors



















# **Strong Executive Team**



















# **Our Commissioners**

#### **Montana Public Service Commission**



		<u>Began</u>	<u>lerm</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Serving</u>	<u>Ends</u>
Brad Molnar (President)	R	Jan-25	Jan-29
Jennifer Fielder (Vice President)	R	Jan-21	Jan-29
Annie Bukacek	R	Jan-23	Jan-27
Jeff Welborn	R	Jan-25	Jan-29
Randy Pinocci	R	Jan-23	Jan-27

Commissioners are elected in statewide elections from each of five districts. Leadership positions are elected by fellow Commissioners. Commissioner term is four years, Chairperson term is two years.

#### South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



		Began	Term
<u>Name</u>	<b>Party</b>	<u>Serving</u>	<u>Ends</u>
Kristie Fiegen (Chair)	R	Aug-11	Jan-31
Gary Hanson (Vice Chair)	R	Jan-03	Jan-27
Chris Nelson	R	Jan-11	Jan-29

Commissioners are elected in statewide elections.
Chairperson is elected by fellow Commissioners.
Commissioner term is six years, Chairperson term is one year.

### Nebraska Public Service Commission



		<u>Began</u>	<u>rerm</u>
<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Serving</u>	<u>Ends</u>
Tim Schram (Chair)	R	Jan-07	Jan-31
Kevin Stocker (Vice Chair)	R	Jan-23	Jan-29
Eric Kamler	R	Jan-23	Jan-29
Christian Mirch	R	Jan-23	Jan-27
Dan Watermeier	R	Jan-19	Jan-31

Commissioners are elected in statewide elections. Chairperson is elected by fellow Commissioners. Commissioner term is six years, Chairperson term is one year.

# Montana – two new commissioners elected, one re-elected.

Brad Molnar (R) elected as District 2 commissioner and MPSC President. Molnar previously served on the MPSC from 2004-2012.

Jeff Welborn (R) elected as District 3 commissioner. Welborn served in the MT legislature from 2008-2025.

Jennifer Fielder (R) re-elected as District 4 commissioner and MPSC Vice President.

# South Dakota – one commissioner re-elected.

Kristie Fiegen (R) re-elected as commissioner and SDPUC Chairperson.

# Nebraska – two commissioners re-elected.

Dan Watermeier (R) re-elected as District 1 commissioner.

Tim Schram (R) re-elected as District 3 commissioner and elected as NPSC Chair.

# Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Pre-Tax Adjustments (\$ Millions)	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Reported GAAP Pre-Tax Income	\$ 181.2	\$ 156.5	\$ 176.1	\$ 178.3	\$ 182.2	\$ 144.2	\$ 190.2	\$ 182.4	\$ 201.6	\$ 214.7
Non-GAAP Adjustments to Pre-Tax Income:										
Weather	13.2	15.2	(3.4)	(1.3)	(7.3)	9.8	1.1	(8.9)	4.3	10.
Lost revenue recovery related to prior periods	-	(14.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remove benefit of insurance settlement	(20.8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
QF liability adjustment	6.1	-	-	(17.5)	-	-	(6.9)	-	-	-
Electric tracker disallowance of prior period costs	-	12.2	-	-	-	9.9	-	-	-	-
Income tax adjustment	-	-	-	9.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Renewable Energy Project Penalty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.5	-	(2.
Impairment of Alternative Energy Storage Investment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.
Adjusted Non-GAAP Pre-Tax Income	\$ 179.7	\$ 169.7	\$ 172.7	\$ 168.9	\$ 174.9	\$ 163.9	\$ 184.4	\$ 176.0	\$ 205.9	\$ 227.
Tax Adjustments to Non-GAAP Items (\$ Millions)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GAAP Net Income	\$ 151.2	\$ 164.2	\$ 162.7	\$ 197.0	\$ 202.1	\$ 155.2		\$ 183.0		\$ 224.
Non-GAAP Adjustments Taxed at 38.5% (12'-17') and 25.3% (18'-current):										
Weather	8.1	9.3	(2.1)	(1.0)	(5.5)	7.3	0.8	(6.6)	3.2	7.
Lost revenue recovery related to prior periods	-	(8.7)	-	- '	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remove benefit of insurance settlement	(12.8)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
QF liability adjustment	3.8	-	-	(13.1)	-	-	(5.2)	-	-	-
Electric tracker disallowance of prior period costs	-	7.5	-	` -	-	7.4	- 1	-	-	_
Income tax adjustment	-	(12.5)	-	(12.8)	(22.8)	-	-	-	-	-
Community Renewable Energy Project Penalty	-		-	- 1		-	-	2.5	-	(2.
Previously claimed AMT credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.2	-
Release of Unrecognized Tax Benefit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3.2)	(16.
Impairment of Alternative Energy Storage Investment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.
Natural Gas Safe Harbor Method Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7.
Non-GAAP Net Income	\$ 150.3	\$ 159.8	\$ 160.6	\$ 170.1	\$ 173.8	\$ 169.9	\$ 182.4	\$ 178.9	\$ 197.3	\$ 208.
Non-GAAP Diluted Earnings per Share	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Diluted Average Shares (Millions)	47.6	48.5	48.7	50.2	50.8	50.7	51.9	56.3	60.4	61.
Reported GAAP Diluted Earnings per Share	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.34	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.98	\$ 3.06	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.25	\$ 3.22	\$ 3.6
Non-GAAP Adjustments:			•						,	
Weather	0.17	0.19	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.11)	0.14	0.01	(0.11)	0.05	0.1
Lost revenue recovery related to prior periods	-	(0.18)	-	- '	- '	-	-	-	-	-
Remove benefit of insurance settlementments & recoveries	(0.27)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
QF liability adjustment	0.08	-	-	(0.26)	-	-	(0.10)	-	-	-
Electric tracker disallowance of prior period costs	-	0.16	-	-	-	0.15	-	-	-	-
Income tax adjustment	-	(0.26)	-	(0.25)	(0.45)	-	-	-	-	-
Community Renewable Energy Project Penalty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.04	-	(0.0
Previously claimed AMT credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	-
Release of Unrecognized Tax Benefit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(0.05)	(0.2
Impairment of Alternative Energy Storage Investment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0
Natural Gas Safe Harbor Method Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(0.1
Non-GAAP Diluted Earnings per Share	\$ 3.15	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.30	\$ 3,39	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.51	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.27	\$ 3.4

# Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This presentation includes financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP, as well as other financial measures, such as Utility Margin, Adjusted Non-GAAP pretax income, Adjusted Non-GAAP net income and Adjusted Non-GAAP Diluted EPS that are considered "non-GAAP financial measures." Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes (or includes) amounts that are included in (or excluded from) the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP.

We define Utility Margin as Operating Revenues less fuel, purchased supply and direct transmission expense (exclusive of depreciation and depletion) as presented in our Consolidated Statements of Income. This measure differs from the GAAP definition of Gross Margin due to the exclusion of Operating and maintenance, Property and other taxes, and Depreciation and depletion expenses, which are presented separately in our Consolidated Statements of Income. A reconciliation of Utility Margin to Gross Margin, the most directly comparable GAAP measure, is included in this presentation.

Management believes that Utility Margin provides a useful measure for investors and other financial statement users to analyze our financial performance in that it excludes the effect on total revenues caused by volatility in energy costs and associated regulatory mechanisms. This information is intended to enhance an investor's overall understanding of results. Under our various state regulatory mechanisms, as detailed below, our supply costs are generally collected from customers. In addition, Utility Margin is used by us to determine whether we are collecting the appropriate amount of energy costs from customers to allow recovery of operating costs, as well as to analyze how changes in loads (due to weather, economic or other conditions), rates and other factors impact our results of operations. Our Utility Margin measure may not be comparable to that of other companies' presentations or more useful than the GAAP information provided elsewhere in this report.

Management also believes the presentation of Adjusted Non-GAAP pre-tax income, Adjusted Non-GAAP net income and Adjusted Non-GAAP Diluted EPS is more representative of normal earnings than GAAP pre-tax income, net income and EPS due to the exclusion (or inclusion) of certain impacts that are not reflective of ongoing earnings. The presentation of these non-GAAP measures is intended to supplement investors' understanding of our financial performance and not to replace other GAAP measures as an indicator of actual operating performance. Our measures may not be comparable to other companies' similarly titled measures.



# Delivering a bright future

