

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

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IN THE MATTER OF ENERGY WEST  
MONTANA, INC.'S APPLICATION FOR  
AN ORDER APPROVING ITS  
RECONCILIATION OF THE  
COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
OF WEST YELLOWSTONE'S NO  
INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM

UTILITY DIVISION  
  
Docket No. D2017.12.89

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**ENERGY WEST MONTANA'S RESPONSES TO  
DATA REQUESTS MCC-001 THROUGH MCC-008**

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Energy West Montana ("EWM") provide the attached responses to the Montana Consumer Counsel's Data Requests MCC-001 through MCC-008.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of February, 2018.

*s/ Nikolas S. Stoffel*

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**COUNSEL FOR ENERGY WEST MONTANA,  
INC.**

## **DATA REQUESTS**

**MCC-001:** RE: NIP overcollection  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

What program(s) would be funded by the \$56,253 half of the over-collection that EWM proposes to make as a one-time contribution to Energy Share? Would those program(s) be exclusively for EWM West Yellowstone customers and over what time period would the money be expended? Please provide detailed explanations of the programs, the benefits provided, and how they would be administered.

### **Response to MCC-001:**

See response to data request PSC-017.

**MCC-002:** RE: Agreement with Energy Share  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

What program(s) would be funded by the annual collections from EWM West Yellowstone customers and the remaining \$56,253 over-collection that EWM proposes to provide as part of an agreement with Energy Share? Would those program(s) be exclusively for EWM West Yellowstone customers? Please provide detailed explanations of the programs, the benefits provided, and how they would be administered.

**Response to MCC-002:**

See response to data request PSC-018.

**MCC-003:** RE: Low Income Customers  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Approximately how many low income eligible customers are served by EWM West Yellowstone based on the criteria used for such eligibility in Great Falls? What percentage of the total EWM West Yellowstone customer base does that represent?

**Response to MCC-003:**

For the 2017 LIEAP program year, EWM West Yellowstone had two customers who received LIEAP funds from the state. In comparison, there are currently 26 households receiving LIEAP funding for electric bills, according to Energy Share.

According to the demographic site <http://www.areavibes.com/west+yellowstone-mt/employment/>, the population of West Yellowstone is 1,434 and the poverty level is 15.6%. So, there are an estimated 223 low income individuals. With an average rate of 2.1 people per household, this calculates to about 106 low income eligible households in the West Yellowstone service area, which is 17.2% of the total 618 customers that EWM West Yellowstone currently serves.

**MCC-004:** RE: Low Income Discounts  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please estimate what the annual cost would be if EWM West Yellowstone implemented the same low income discounts for its customers that are available to EWM Great Falls customers?

**Response to MCC-004:**

For the two customers who received LIEAP support in 2017, we weather normalized their usage for the bills occurring between October 2016 and April 2017 (the LIEAP program run dates) and applied their discount percentage to what their bills would have been. The total for the normalized 2016 fiscal year would have been \$308. Extrapolated to a potential 106 customers (see MCC-003), annualized low income discount costs would be \$16,324. Extrapolated to 26 customers (see MCC-003), annualized low income discount costs would be \$4,004.

**MCC-005:** RE: Exhibit JDH-1  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please explain why the amounts for each year in *NIP Loan Program – Paid by Great Falls* (line 10) on Exhibit JDH-1 do not tie to the *Amounts Transferred to EWM-Great Falls* (line 14).

**Response to MCC-005:**

The amounts collected by EWM-West Yellowstone from its customers and remitted to EWM-Great Falls to be used for NIP Loan Program costs is the total of line 10 and line 14. Line 10 represents the actual amount of NIP Loan Program costs paid for by EWM - Great Falls with the funds submitted by EWM-West Yellowstone and line 14 represents the excess of the amounts remitted over the amounts paid out.

**MCC-006:** RE: NIP Over-collection  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Have the NIP West Yellowstone over-collected amounts been held in an interest-bearing account? If yes, please indicate the amount of accrued interest. If no, please indicate where those funds have been held.

**Response to MCC-006:**

No, they have not been in an interest-bearing account. The funds went into our regular cash accounts with other customer receipts.

**MCC-007:** RE: NIP Over-collection  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Will the unexpended portions of the \$56,253 proposed to be made as a one-time contribution to Energy Share be held in an interest-bearing account for the benefit of West Yellowstone customers? If not, please indicate where those funds will be held.

**Response to MCC-007:**

No, the funds will remain in our regular cash accounts with other customer receipts.



**MCC-008:** RE: Agreement(s) with Energy Share  
Witness: Jed Henthorne

Please provide copies of any agreement(s) entered into by EWM with Energy Share regarding potential funds to be received from West Yellowstone customers. If no such agreements exist, please explain why approval for the use of over collected funds is being sought without detailed explanation of how those funds will be used.

**Response to MCC-008:**

See response to data request PSC-020 and PSC-021.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this, the 8th day of February, 2018, **ENERGY WEST MONTANA'S RESPONSES TO DATA REQUESTS MCC-001 THROUGH MCC-008** were e-filed with the Commission and served via U.S. mail and e-mail, unless otherwise noted, to the following:

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*s/ Adele C. Lee*

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