

AIR QUALITY PERMIT

Issued To: NorthWestern Corporation
40 East Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701

Permit #2997-06
Administrative Amendment Request Received: 4/11/05
Department's Decision Issued: 10/13/05
Permit Final: 10/31/05
AFS# 049-0013

An air quality permit, with conditions, is hereby granted to the NorthWestern Corporation pursuant to Section 75-2-204 and 211 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), as amended, and Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.8.740, *et seq.*, as amended, for the following:

Section I: Permitted Facilities

A. Plant Location:

NorthWestern Corporation operates a natural gas compressor station located approximately 10 miles east of Augusta in Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. This facility is known as Main Line #3. A listing of the permitted equipment is contained in Section I.A. of the Permit Analysis.

B. Current Permit Action:

On April 11, 2005, the NorthWestern Corporation submitted a request to amend Permit #2997-05. The request includes the removal of three of the 1600 horsepower (hp) Solar Saturn compressor turbines that were added to the permit in 2001. The units were never installed. The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has also updated the rule references, reporting language and General Condition language including Sections II.C.2 and 3.

Section II: Limitations and Operating Conditions

A. Limitations and Control Requirements

1. Emissions from each of the two 1100-hp Cooper-Superior lean-burn compressor engines shall not exceed the following (ARM 17.8.749):

NO _x	4.85 pounds per hour (lb/hr)
CO	7.28 lb/hr
VOC	1.82 lb/hr

2. Emissions from each of the three 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressors shall not exceed the following (ARM 17.8.749):

NO _x	7.27 lb/hr
CO	2.01 lb/hr
VOC	0.56 lb/hr

3. The combined total hours of operation of the three 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressors shall be limited to a maximum of 15,000 hours during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749 and ARM 17.8.1204).

4. The combined total hours of operation of the two natural gas emergency generators shall be limited to a maximum of 1,000 hours during any rolling 12-month time period (ARM 17.8.749).
5. NorthWestern Corporation shall neither install nor operate the 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressor (Unit #051-01) until the 1100-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressor scheduled for removal and replacement has been taken off line (ARM 17.8.749).
6. NorthWestern Corporation shall not cause or authorize emissions to be discharged into the outdoor atmosphere from any sources installed on or before November 23, 1968, that exhibit an opacity of 40% or greater averaged over six consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.304).
7. NorthWestern Corporation shall not cause or authorize emissions to be discharged into the outdoor atmosphere from any sources installed after November 23, 1968, that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over six consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.304).
8. NorthWestern Corporation shall not cause or authorize emissions to be discharged into the atmosphere from haul roads, access roads, parking lots, or the general plant property without taking reasonable precautions to control emissions of airborne particulate matter (ARM 17.8.308).
9. NorthWestern Corporation shall treat all unpaved portions of the access roads, parking lots, and general plant area with fresh water and/or chemical dust suppressant as necessary to maintain compliance with the reasonable precautions limitation in Section II.A.8 (ARM 17.8.749).
10. NorthWestern Corporation shall not incinerate any material other than oil soaked rags, oil adsorbents, and filters in the Smart Ash Burner. Hazardous wastes may not be incinerated in the Smart Ash Burner (ARM 17.8.749).
11. NorthWestern Corporation shall not cause or authorize emissions to be discharged into the outdoor atmosphere from the Smart Ash Burner that exhibit an opacity of 10% or greater averaged over six consecutive minutes (ARM 17.8.752).

B. Testing Requirements

1. NorthWestern Corporation shall test Unit #051-04 and Unit #051-05 (1100-hp Cooper-Superior compressor engines) for NO_x and CO, concurrently, and demonstrate compliance with the NO_x and CO emission limits contained in Section II.A.1. Further testing shall occur on an every four-year basis or according to another testing/monitoring schedule as may be approved by the Department (ARM 17.8.105 and 17.8.749).
2. NorthWestern Corporation shall test Unit #051-01, Unit #051-02, and Unit #051-03, (1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressor) for NO_x and CO, concurrently, and demonstrate compliance with the NO_x and CO emission limits contained in Section II.A.2. Further testing shall continue on an every four-year basis or according to another testing/monitoring schedule as may be approved by the Department (ARM 17.8.105 and 17.8.749).

3. All source tests shall be conducted in accordance with the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual (ARM 17.8.106).
4. The Department may require further testing (ARM 17.8.105).

C. Operational Reporting Requirements

1. NorthWestern Corporation shall supply the Department with annual production information for all emission points, as required, by the Department, in the annual emission inventory request. The request will include, but is not limited to, all sources of emissions identified in the permit analysis.

Production information shall be gathered on a calendar-year basis and submitted to the Department by the date required in the emission inventory request and shall be in the units required by the Department. This information is required for the annual emission inventory and to verify compliance with permit limitations (ARM 17.8.505).

2. NorthWestern Corporation shall document, by month, the total hours of operation of the three 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbines. By the 25th day of each month, NorthWestern shall total the hours of operation of the turbines for the previous month. The monthly information will be used to verify compliance with the rolling 12-month limitation in Section II.A.3. The information for each of the previous months shall be submitted along with the annual inventory (ARM 17.8.749).
3. NorthWestern Corporation shall document, by month, the total hours of operation of the two natural gas emergency generators. By the 25th day of each month, NorthWestern shall total the hours of operation of the two natural gas emergency generators for the previous month. The monthly information will be used to verify compliance with the rolling 12-month limitation in Section II.A.4. The information for each of the previous months shall be submitted along with the annual inventory (ARM 17.8.749).
4. NorthWestern Corporation shall notify the Department of any construction or improvement project conducted pursuant to ARM 17.8.745, that would include a change in control equipment, stack height, stack diameter, stack flow, stack gas temperature, source location or fuel specifications, or would result in an increase in source capacity above its permitted operation or the addition of a new emission unit. The notice must be submitted to the Department, in writing, 10 days prior to start up or use of the proposed de minimis change, or as soon as reasonably practicable in the event of an unanticipated circumstance causing the de minimis change, and must include the information requested in ARM 17.8.745(1)(d) (ARM 17.8.745).
5. NorthWestern Corporation shall annually certify, as required by ARM 17.8.1204(3)(b), that its actual emissions are less than those that would require the source to obtain an air quality Title V Operating Permit. The annual certification shall comply with the certification requirements of ARM 17.8.1207. The annual certification shall be submitted no later than March 1 and may be submitted with the annual emission inventory information (ARM 17.8.1204).

6. NorthWestern Corporation must maintain all records compiled in accordance with this permit as a permanent business record for at least five years following the date of the measurement, must be available at the plant site for inspection by the Department, and must be submitted to the Department upon request (ARM 17.8.749).

D. Notification

1. NorthWestern Corporation shall provide the Department with written notification of commencement of construction of the 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine permitted by Permit #2997-03 (Unit #051-01) within 30 days after commencement of construction.
2. NorthWestern Corporation shall provide the Department with written notification of the actual start-up date of the 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine permitted by Permit #2997-03 (Unit #051-01) within 15 days of actual start-up.

E. Applicant Accepted Conditions Applicable to All Activities of NorthWestern Corporation Described in the Record of Decision for the March 14, 2002, Silver Bow Generation Project and Associated Pipeline Construction Activities

NorthWestern Corporation has agreed to implement several mitigation measures, as described in the Record of Decision for the CES Silver Bow Generation Project and the measures as imposed at the project sponsors' request pursuant to §75-1-201(5)(b), MCA. These mitigation measures are enforceable conditions in this permit and shall remain in the permit for the lifetime of the facility.

1. **Apiary Sites:** Prior to building of the gas pipeline, NorthWestern Corporation shall coordinate between construction activities and the beehive operators. It may be possible to relocate hives within the same apiary site, causing the hive to be situated in an area farther away from construction activities. Beekeepers typically rotate bees between apiary sites. Ideally, hives must be relocated to another registered apiary site during the period of pipeline construction.
2. **Superfund Sites:** NorthWestern Corporation shall coordinate with ARCO to include pipeline construction in the ARCO long-term Management Plan for wildlife conservation at the Warm Springs Pond Superfund Site.
3. **Topsoil Salvage:** Pipeline construction activities resulting in soil excavation must salvage the uppermost topsoil horizon(s) and stockpile the materials for reclamation coversoil after regrading. At a minimum, topsoil salvage depth must include all horizons dominated by organic material or containing an accumulation of organic matter to a depth of 12 inches.
4. **Multiple Horizon Soil Salvage:** For agricultural lands, soil and salvage operations must include multiple horizons (i.e. topsoil and subsoil) salvaged separately and replaced sequentially to help mitigate the potential loss of soil productivity.
5. **Soil Compaction Minimization:** All salvaged coversoil must be respread over the regraded trench using tracked equipment to minimize soil compaction.
6. **100-year Flood Plain:** Temporary access roads must be located, to the maximum degree, on soils outside the 100-year floodplain.

7. Reseeding: NorthWestern Corporation shall include in the Weed Control Plan the provisions that all disturbed areas will be reseeded with site-adapted seed mixtures and adequate seed rates of pure live seed in the first appropriate season (Spring or Fall) after construction and at the landowners' discretion. Areas disturbed by the Project that supported native vegetation will be revegetated with native species.
8. Temporary Cover of Disturbed Areas: NorthWestern Corporation shall reseed in the same year for all construction completed by August 31, or at landowners' discretion.
9. Minimize Vegetation Cleanup: Existing vegetation may only be cleared from areas scheduled for immediate construction work and only for the width needed for active construction activities.
10. Revegetation Reclamation: NorthWestern Corporation must monitor revegetated areas and implement remedial revegetation if necessary until reclamation is successful.
11. Botanical Surveys: NorthWestern Corporation shall perform pre-construction botanical surveys (weed inventory) of staging yards, contractor yards, and other associated facilities and mitigate if noxious weeds are not controlled in reclaimed areas.
12. Special-Status Plants: NorthWestern Corporation shall use narrowed right-of-way or, where possible, minor reroutes to minimize or avoid impacts to special-status plant populations.
13. NorthWestern Corporation and Contractor Compliance: NorthWestern Corporation shall ensure contractors adhere to all mitigation measures. NorthWestern Corporation will provide an environmental inspector during pipeline construction.
14. Pollution Prevention: All vehicles and equipment utilized during pipeline construction shall be clean, in good repair, and without leaks or oil, gasoline, diesel, or other materials which would contaminate stream water quality. The contractor or NorthWestern Corporation shall conduct daily equipment inspection for leaking oil and fuel.
15. Big Game Avoidance: NorthWestern Corporation shall consult with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to develop timing restrictions to avoid constructing in big game winter range during critical periods.

Section III: General Conditions

- A. Inspection - NorthWestern Corporation shall allow the Department's representatives access to the source at all reasonable times for the purpose of making inspections, surveys, collecting samples, obtaining data, auditing any monitoring equipment (CEMS, CERMS) or observing any monitoring or testing, and otherwise conducting all necessary functions related to this permit.
- B. Waiver - The permit and all the terms, conditions, and matters stated herein shall be

deemed accepted if NorthWestern Corporation fails to appeal as indicated below.

- C. Compliance with Statutes and Regulations - Nothing in this permit shall be construed as relieving NorthWestern Corporation of the responsibility for complying with any applicable federal or Montana statute, rule or standard, except as specifically provided in ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.* (ARM 17.8.756).
- D. Enforcement - Violations of limitations, conditions and requirements contained herein may constitute grounds for permit revocation, penalties, or other enforcement as specified in Section 75-2-401 *et seq.*, MCA.
- E. Appeals - Any person or persons jointly or severally adversely affected by the Department's decision may request, within 15 days after the Department renders its decision, upon affidavit setting forth the grounds therefore, a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review (Board). A hearing shall be held under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. The filing of a request for a hearing does not stay the Department's decision, unless the Board issues a stay upon receipt of a petition and a finding that a stay is appropriate under Section 75-2-211(11)(b), MCA. The issuance of a stay on a permit by the Board postpones the effective date of the Department's decision until conclusion of the hearing and issuance of a final decision by the Board. If a stay is not issued by the Board, the Department's decision on the application is final 16 days after the Department's decision is made.
- F. Permit Inspection - As required by ARM 17.8.755, Inspection of Permit, a copy of the air quality permit shall be made available for inspection by Department personnel at the location of the permitted source.
- G. Permit Fees - Pursuant to Section 75-2-220, MCA, as amended by the 1991 Legislature, failure to pay the annual operation fee by NorthWestern Corporation may be grounds for revocation of this permit, as required, by that section and rules adopted thereunder by the Board.
- H. Construction Commencement – Construction must begin within three years of permit issuance and proceed with due diligence until the project is complete or the permit shall be revoked (ARM 17.8.762).

Permit Analysis
NorthWestern Corporation
Permit Number: 2997-06

I. Introduction/Process Description

NorthWestern Corporation operates a gas compressor station located approximately 10 miles east of Augusta in Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

A. Permitted Equipment

The NorthWestern Corporation facility includes:

1. (3) 1600-horsepower (hp) Solar Saturn Compressor Turbines
2. (2) 1100-hp Cooper-Superior Compressor Engines
3. Miscellaneous Building Heaters.
4. (2) Natural Gas Emergency Generators.
5. (1) Smart Ash Burner

B. Source Description

The NorthWestern Corporation facility is located on an 11-acre site in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, approximately 10 miles east of Augusta along Highway 21. The legal description of the facility is Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

The facility is a natural gas compressor station. Natural gas is transmitted to the Main Line #3 station from Cut Bank by a 16-inch gas transmission pipeline. The pressure of the gas is boosted to a pressure of approximately 1,000 psig by three Solar Saturn gas-fired turbine-driven compressors and two Cooper-Superior reciprocating compressor engines. The two Cooper-Superior compressor engines are also used to transmit natural gas from Big Sandy to Main Line #3 via Great Falls. However, this process only occurs if excess gas is available from the Big Sandy gas fields.

C. Permit History

The original equipment at the Montana Power Company (MPC) – Main Line #3 was installed in 1966 and was, therefore, grandfathered from permitting. On January 27, 1998, MPC submitted a permit application for the addition of two 1100-hp Cooper-Superior compressor engines at the Main Line #3 compressor station. On April 3, 1998, the MPC – Main Line #3 compressor station Permit #2997-00 became final. Permit #2997-00 permitted two 1100-hp Cooper-Superior compressor engines, three 1100-hp Solar Saturn turbines, miscellaneous building heaters, two natural gas generators, a discharge scrubber tank, and a diesel fuel tank. MPC – Main Line #3 agreed to place operational limits on the three existing 1100-hp Solar Saturn turbines and the two existing natural gas emergency generators to limit emissions below the emission threshold that would require a Title V Operating Permit.

On August 20, 1998, MPC requested that Permit #2997-00 be altered to include a Smart Ash Burner for the disposal of rags and other waste. On October 16, 1998, Permit #2997-01 replaced Permit #2997-00. The permit still included hourly operational limits to keep the facility below the Title V Operating Permit threshold.

On March 20, 2000, MPC requested that Permit #2997-01 be altered to facilitate the replacement of two 1100-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressors with two 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressors. On May 13, 2000, Permit #2997-02 replaced Permit #2997-01. The permit still included hourly operational limits to keep the facility below the Title V Operating Permit threshold.

On June 29, 2001, MPC requested that Permit #2997-02 be altered to facilitate the replacement of an 1100-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressor with a 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressor. The permit still included hourly operational limits to keep the facility below the Title V operating permit threshold. Permit #2997-03 replaced Permit #2997-02.

On July 30, 2001, MPC requested that Permit #2997-03 be altered to facilitate the addition of three 1600-hp Solar Saturn turbine-driven compressors. The permit still includes hourly operational limits that allow the facility to stay below the emission threshold that would require a Title V operating permit. In addition, through the Montana Environmental Policy Act process, the applicant proposed mitigation measures. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has incorporated a portion of those mitigation measures in this permitting action. The conditions pertaining to the mitigation measures are included in Section II.E of the permit and are intended to remain in the permit for the lifetime of the facility. Permit #2997-04 replaced Permit #2997-03.

On November 23, 2001, the MPC notified the Department of a pending merger of MPC with and into Montana Power, L.C.C. (MPC LCC). Due to questions regarding the length of time the new company name would be valid, the Department decided to wait on the name change for the permit. On October 18, 2002, the Department received a request to change the permit from MPC LLC to NorthWestern Corporation. The permit action changed the name on this permit from MPC to NorthWestern Corporation. Permit #2997-05 replaced Permit #2997-04.

D. Current Permit Action

On April 11, 2005, the NorthWestern Corporation submitted a request to amend Permit #2997-05. The request includes the removal of three of the 1600 hp Solar Saturn compressor turbines that were added to the permit in 2001. The units were never installed. The Department also updated the rule references, reporting language and General Condition language including Sections II.C.2 and 3.

E. Additional Information

Additional information, such as applicable rules and regulations, Best Available Control Technology (BACT) determinations, air quality impacts, and environmental assessments, is included in the analysis associated with each change to the permit.

II. Applicable Rules and Regulations

The following are partial quotations of some applicable rules and regulations that apply to the facility. The complete rules are stated in the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) and are available upon request from the Department. Upon request, the Department will provide references for locations of complete copies of all applicable rules and regulations or copies where appropriate.

A. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 1 - General Provisions, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.105 Testing Requirements. Any person or persons responsible for the emission of any air contaminant into the outdoor atmosphere shall, upon written request of the Department, provide the facilities and necessary equipment (including instruments and sensing devices) and shall conduct tests, emission or ambient, for such periods of time as may be necessary using methods approved by the Department. Testing shall occur according to Section II.B. of the permit. The Department may require further testing.
2. ARM 17.8.106 Source Testing Protocol. The requirements of this rule apply to any emission source testing conducted by the Department, any source, or other entity as required by any rule in this chapter, or any permit or order issued pursuant to this chapter, or the provisions of the Clean Air Act of Montana, 75-2-101, *et seq.*, Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

NorthWestern Corporation shall comply with all requirements contained in the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual, including, but not limited to, using the proper test methods and supplying the required reports. A copy of the Montana Source Test Protocol and Procedures Manual is available from the Department upon request.

3. ARM 17.8.110 Malfunctions. (2) The Department must be notified promptly by telephone whenever a malfunction occurs that can be expected to create emissions in excess of any applicable emission limitation or to continue for a period greater than four hours.
4. ARM 17.8.111 Circumvention. (1) No person shall cause or permit the installation or use of any device or any means which, without resulting in reduction in the total amount of air contaminant emitted, conceals or dilutes an emission of air contaminant that would otherwise violate an air pollution control regulation. (2) No equipment that may produce emissions shall be operated or maintained in such a manner that a public nuisance is created.

B. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 2 - Ambient Air Quality, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.204 Ambient Air Monitoring
2. ARM 17.8.210 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Dioxide
3. ARM 17.8.211 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide
4. ARM 17.8.212 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide
5. ARM 17.8.213 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone
6. ARM 17.8.214 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Hydrogen Sulfide
7. ARM 17.8.220 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Settled Particulate Matter
8. ARM 17.8.221 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Visibility
9. ARM 17.8.222 Ambient Air Quality Standard for Lead
10. ARM 17.8.223 Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM₁₀

NorthWestern Corporation must comply with the applicable ambient air quality standards.

C. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 3 - Emission Standards, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.304 Visible Air Contaminants. (1) This rule requires that no person may cause or authorize emissions to be discharged to an outdoor atmosphere

from any source installed on or before November 23, 1968, that exhibit an opacity of 40% or greater averaged over six consecutive minutes. (2) This rule requires that no person may cause or authorize emissions to be discharged to the outdoor atmosphere from any source installed after November 23, 1968, that exhibit an opacity of 20% or greater averaged over six consecutive minutes.

2. ARM 17.8.308 Particulate Matter, Airborne. (1) This rule requires an opacity limitation of 20% for all fugitive emission sources and that reasonable precautions be taken to control emissions of airborne particulate matter. (2) Under this rule, NorthWestern Corporation shall not cause or authorize the use of any street, road, or parking lot without taking reasonable precautions to control emissions of airborne particulate matter.
3. ARM 17.8.322 Sulfur Oxide Emissions--Sulfur in Fuel. Commencing July 1, 1971, no person shall burn any gaseous fuel containing sulfur compounds in excess of 50 grains per 100 cubic feet of gaseous fuel, calculated as hydrogen sulfide at standard conditions.
4. ARM 17.8.340 Standard of Performance for New Stationary Sources. The owner or operator of any stationary source or modification, as defined and applied in 40 CFR Part 60, shall comply with the standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 60.

40 CFR 60, Subpart GG, Standards of Performance for Stationary Gas Turbines. This subpart shall apply to all stationary gas turbines with a heat input at peak load equal to or greater than 10.7 gigajoules per hour, based on the lower heating value of the fuel fired and construction, reconstruction, or modification commenced after October 3, 1977. This subpart does not apply to the Main Line #3 facility because each of the turbine-driven compressors has a heat input of 4.29 gigajoules per hour at peak load.

40 CFR 60, Subpart KKK, Standards of Performance for Equipment Leaks of VOC From Onshore Natural Gas Processing Plants. Owners or operators of onshore natural gas processing plants, as defined and applied in 40 CFR Part 60, shall comply with standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart KKK. This subpart does not apply to the Main Line #3 facility because it does not meet the definition of a natural gas processing plant as defined in 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart KKK.

5. ARM 17.8.342 Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories. Owners or operators of oil and natural gas production facilities, as defined and applied in 40 CFR Part 63, shall comply with standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart HH. The Main Line #3 compressor station is not a National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) affected source because the facility does not include an affected emission point as defined in 63.760(b)(1) through 63.760(b)(4).

Owners or operators of natural gas transmission or storage facilities, as defined and applied in 40 CFR Part 63, shall comply with the standards and provisions of 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart HHH. The Main Line #3 compressor station is not a NESHAP affected source because the facility does not include a glycol dehydration unit.

D. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 5 - Air Quality Permit Application, Operation and Open Burning Fees, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.504 Air Quality Permit Application Fees. NorthWestern Corporation shall submit an air quality permit application fee concurrent with the submittal of an air quality permit application. A permit application is incomplete until the proper application fee is paid to the Department. A fee was not required for the current permit action because the action is considered administrative.
2. ARM 17.8.505 Air Quality Operation Fees. An annual air quality operation fee must, as a condition of continued operation, be submitted to the Department by each source of air contaminants holding an air quality permit, excluding an open burning permit, issued by the Department. This operation fee is based on the actual or estimated amount of air pollutants emitted during the previous calendar year.

An air quality operation fee is separate and distinct from an air quality permit application fee. The annual assessment and collection of the air quality operation fee, as described above, shall take place on a calendar-year basis. The Department may insert into any final permit issued after the effective date of these rules such conditions as may be necessary to require the payment of an air quality operation fee on a calendar-year basis, including provisions that pro-rate the required fee amount.

E. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 7 - Permit, Construction and Operation of Air Contaminant Sources, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.740 Definitions. This rule is a list of applicable definitions used in this chapter, unless indicated otherwise in a specific subchapter.
2. ARM 17.8.743 Montana Air Quality Permits--When Required. Permits are required for sources that have the Potential to Emit (PTE) greater than 25 tons per year of any pollutant. NorthWestern Corporation facility has the PTE more than 25 tons per year of nitrogen oxide (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); therefore, a permit is required.
3. ARM 17.8.744 Montana Air Quality Permits--General Exclusions. This rule identifies the activities that are not subject to the Montana Air Quality Permit program.
4. ARM 17.8.745 Montana Air Quality Permits--Exclusion for De Minimis Changes. This rule identifies the de minimis changes at permitted facilities that do not require a permit under the Montana Air Quality Permit Program.
5. ARM 17.8.748 New or Modified Emitting Units--Permit Application Requirements. (1) This rule requires that a permit application be submitted prior to installation, alteration, or use of a source. A permit application was not required for the current permit action because it is considered administrative. (7) This rule requires that the applicant notify the public by means of legal publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the application for a permit. An affidavit of publication was not required for the current permit action because it is considered administrative.

6. ARM 17.8.749 Conditions for Issuance or Denial of Permit. This rule requires that the permits issued by the Department must authorize the construction and operation of the facility or emitting unit subject to the conditions in the permit and the requirements of this subchapter. This rule also requires that the permit must contain any conditions necessary to assure compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), the Clean Air Act of Montana, and rules adopted under those acts.
7. ARM 17.8.752 Emission Control Requirements. This rule requires a source to install the maximum air pollution control capability that is technically practicable and economically feasible, except that BACT shall be utilized. A BACT analysis was not required for the current permit action because there are no new or altered sources permitted as part of this action.
8. ARM 17.8.755 Inspection of Permit. This rule requires that air quality permits shall be made available for inspection by the Department at the location of the source.
9. ARM 17.8.756 Compliance with Other Requirements. This rule states that nothing in the permit shall be construed as relieving NorthWestern Corporation of the responsibility for complying with any applicable federal or Montana statute, rule, or standard, except as specifically provided in ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.*
10. ARM 17.8.759 Review of Permit Applications. This rule describes the Department's responsibilities for processing permit applications and making permit decisions on those permit applications that do not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.
11. ARM 17.8.762 Duration of Permit. An air quality permit shall be valid until revoked or modified, as provided in this subchapter, except that a permit issued prior to construction of a new or altered source may contain a condition providing that the permit will expire unless construction is commenced within the time specified in the permit, which in no event may be less than one year after the permit is issued.
12. ARM 17.8.763 Revocation of Permit. An air quality permit may be revoked upon written request of the permittee, or for violations of any requirement of the Clean Air Act of Montana, rules adopted under the Clean Air Act of Montana, the FCAA, rules adopted under the FCAA, or any applicable requirement contained in the Montana State Implementation Plan (SIP).
13. ARM 17.8.764 Administrative Amendment to Permit. An air quality permit may be amended for changes in any applicable rules and standards adopted by the Board of Environmental Review (Board) or changed conditions of operation at a source or stack that do not result in an increase of emissions as a result of those changed conditions. The owner or operator of a facility may not increase the facility's emissions beyond permit limits unless the increase meets the criteria in ARM 17.8.745 for a de minimis change not requiring a permit, or unless the owner or operator applies for and receives another permit in accordance with ARM 17.8.748, ARM 17.8.749, ARM 17.8.752, ARM 17.8.755, and ARM 17.8.756, and with all applicable requirements in ARM Title 17, Chapter 8,

Subchapters 8, 9, and 10.

14. ARM 17.8.765 Transfer of Permit. This rule states that an air quality permit may be transferred from one person to another if written notice of Intent to Transfer, including the names of the transferor and the transferee, is sent to the Department.
15. ARM 17.8.770 Additional Requirements for Incinerators. This rule specifies the additional information that must be submitted to the Department for incineration facilities subject to 75-2-215, Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

F. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 8 - Prevention of Significant Deterioration, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.801 Definitions. This rule is a list of applicable definitions used in this sub-chapter.
2. ARM 17.8.818 Review of Major Stationary Sources and Major Modification-- Source Applicability and Exemptions. The requirements contained in ARM 17.8.819 through ARM 17.8.827 shall apply to any major stationary source and any major modification with respect to each pollutant subject to regulation under the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) that it would emit, except as this subchapter would otherwise allow.

This facility is not a major stationary source because it is not listed and does not have the PTE more than 250 tons per year (excluding fugitive emissions) of any air pollutant.

G. ARM 17.8, Sub-Chapter 12 – Operating Permit Program Applicability, including, but not limited to:

1. ARM 17.8.1201 Definitions. (23) Major Source under Section 7412 of the FCAA is defined as any stationary source having:
 - a. PTE > 100 tons/year of any pollutant.
 - b. PTE > 10 tons/year of any one Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP), or PTE > 25 tons/year of a combination of all HAPs, or lesser quantity as the Department may establish by rule.
 - c. PTE > 70 tons/year of PM₁₀ in a serious PM₁₀ nonattainment area.
2. ARM 17.8.1204 Air Quality Operating Permit Program Applicability. Title V of the FCAA Amendments of 1990 requires that all sources, as defined in ARM 17.8.1204(1), obtain a Title V Operating Permit. In reviewing and issuing Air Quality Permit #2997-05 for NorthWestern Corporation, the following conclusions were made:
 - a. The facility's PTE is less than 100 tons/year for any pollutants.
 - b. The facility's PTE is less than 10 tons/year of any one HAP and less than 25 tons/year of all HAPs.

- c. This source is not located in a serious PM₁₀ nonattainment area.
- d. This facility is not subject to any current NSPS.
- e. This facility is not subject to any current NESHAP standards.
- f. This source is not a Title IV affected source nor a solid waste combustion unit.
- g. This source is not an EPA designated Title V source.

The NorthWestern Corporation's Permit (#2997-06) includes a federally enforceable limit that allows the facility to stay below the Title V Operating Permit threshold. Therefore, the facility is not required to obtain a Title V Operating Permit.

- h. ARM 17.8.1203(3). The Department may exempt a source from the requirement to obtain an air quality-operating permit by establishing federally enforceable limitations that limit that source's potential to emit.
 - i. In applying for an exemption under this section, the owner or operator of the source shall certify to the Department that the source's PTE does not require the source to obtain an air quality operating permit.
 - ii. Any source that obtains a federally enforceable limit on potential to emit shall annually certify that its actual emissions are less than those that would require the source to obtain an air quality-operating permit.

The Department determined that the annual reporting requirements contained in the permit are sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

2. ARM 17.8.1207 Certification of Truth Accuracy and Completeness. The compliance certification submittal required by ARM 17.8.1204(3) shall contain certification by a responsible official of truth, accuracy, and completeness. This certification, and any other certification required under this subchapter, shall state that, based on information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the statements and information in the document are true, accurate, and complete.

III. Emission Inventory

Source	ton/year					
	TSP	PM-10	NO _x	CO	VOC	SO _x
1600 hp Solar Saturn Turbine	----	0.427	18.17	5.03	1.41	0.145
1600 hp Solar Saturn Turbine		0.427	18.17	5.03	1.41	0.145
1600 hp Solar Saturn Turbine		0.427	18.17	5.03	1.41	0.145
1100 hp Cooper Superior Engine	----	0.52	21.25	31.87	7.97	0.03
1100 hp Cooper Superior Engine	----	0.52	21.25	31.87	7.97	0.03
200 kw Natural Gas Generator	----	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
200 kw Natural Gas Generator	----	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Building Heaters	----	0.03	0.34	0.15	0.02	0.00
Smart Ash Recovery Unit-100	----	0.03	0.33	0.04	0.00	1.93

Haul Roads	2.74	1.23	----	----	----	----
Discharge Scrubber Tank	----	----	----	----	----	----
Diesel Fuel Tank	----	----	----	----	----	----
Total	2.74	3.60	98.12	79.01	20.19	2.43

- A complete emission inventory is on file with the Department and is available upon request.

IV. BACT Determination

A BACT determination is required for each new or altered source. A BACT determination was not required for the current permit action because the permit action is considered administrative and no new or altered sources are being added.

V. Existing Air Quality:

The facility is located in a remote part of Lewis and Clark County approximately 10 miles east of Augusta, along Highway 21. The plant site is located in Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 4 West, in Lewis and Clark County, Montana. The air quality of this area is classified as either “Better than National Standards” or unclassifiable/attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants. The nearest Class I area is the Bob Marshall Wilderness, located approximately 30 miles west of the facility. In the view of the Department, the amount of controlled emissions from this facility will not violate any ambient air quality standards.

VI. Takings or Damaging Implication Analysis

As required by 2-10-101 through 105, MCA, the Department conducted a private property taking and damaging assessment and determined there are no taking or damaging implications.

VII. Environmental Assessment

This permitting action will not result in an increase of emissions from the facility and is considered an administrative action; therefore, an Environmental Assessment is not required.

Permit Analysis Prepared By: Vickie Walsh
Date: August 15, 2005