

January 19, 2012

**ITEM 154-2301-R0112**

**Authorization to Execute Easement/Right of Way Agreement between NorthWestern Energy Corporation and Northern Agricultural Research Center, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with Regents Policy 1003.6.IV, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes MSU to execute agreements with NorthWestern Energy Corporation to provide an easement required to install transmission lines on MAES/NARC property.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) will be expanding their current Assiniboine Substation, which forces NorthWestern Energy (NWE) to relocate three existing 69kV transmission lines (Assiniboine – Havre City, Assiniboine – Chester and Assiniboine – Highland Park). The relocation of the three 69kV transmission lines will benefit WAPA as it will provide adequate room for their crews to safely expand their substation and it will also provide NWE the benefit of improving our transmission lines facilities through the subject area.
  2. The easement will be for 1.17 acres for the Havre City line, .79 acres for the Highland Park line, .57 acres for the Chester line, .46 acres for the Assiniboine substation. NorthWestern will pay \$700 per acre which totals Two Thousand Ninety Three Dollars for the easements, which represents the FMV (fair market value) as determined by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for similarly situated acreage. The Right of Way Deed to be executed is attached.
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**ATTACHMENTS**