

May 22-23, 2014

**ITEM 163-1502-R0514**

**Authorization to execute Utility Easement between NorthWestern Corporation and Montana Tech of the University of Montana**

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**THAT**

Consistent with Regents Policy 1003.6.IV, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana Tech of the University of Montana to execute a utility easement agreement with NorthWestern Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, to replace a natural gas transmission line on Montana Tech property.

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**EXPLANATION**

NorthWestern Energy currently has a 16 inch steel diameter natural gas transmission main pipeline that runs from NorthWestern property east across Montana Tech property. An existing utility easement is in place for this pipeline. NorthWestern has replaced the 16 inch steel with an 8 inch plastic main pipeline running beside the existing 16 inch, and the 16 inch piping will be abandoned in place.

The new 8 inch plastic main pipeline requires a new utility easement because of slight alignment and location differences. NorthWestern requests abandonment of existing easement and approval of new easement as defined in new agreement documents.

The new easement does not impact any current or future land use plans of Montana Tech. The new 8 inch natural gas pipeline benefits Montana Tech as the existing 16 inch steel is approaching the end of its useful life and the new pipeline helps ensure dependable natural gas supply to area customers.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: NorthWestern Utility Easement & Exhibits