

November 19-20, 2015

ITEM 169-1003-R1115

Request for Authorization to Execute Utility Easement between Northwestern Energy Co. and the University of Montana-Missoula

THAT

In accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.6, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana – Missoula Campus to execute a utility easement agreement between NorthWestern Corporation, d/b/a NorthWestern Energy Co. and the University of Montana, for the installation of the main electrical service to campus.

EXPLANATION

NorthWestern Energy currently has an electrical service line that runs from the transmission lines on the River Trail south across University of Montana property. An existing utility easement is in place for this service. The electrical cable is direct buried, it is over 30 years old and is approaching its expected service life. The line runs under Washington Grizzly Stadium and the present location conflicts with the construction of the new Champions Center.

A new 10ft. wide utility easement is required on the University of Montana's property to provide a pathway for a proposed new underground electrical service for campus. Regent's policy 1003.6 allows the Board to approve easements on university property. Fair value must be received for the easement and benefit to the university may be considered when determining fair value. In this case, the 10 ft. wide underground utility easement is necessary to provide reliable power to campus and constitutes fair value for the easement. The new service requires a new utility easement due to the change in location.

The new easement does not impact any current or future land use plans for the University of Montana. The new electrical service benefits The University of Montana as the existing service cable is approaching the end of its useful life and the new service helps ensure dependable electrical power supply to the campus.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1 – Exhibit A