

March 15-16, 2023

**ITEM 205-1012-R0323**

**Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement to NorthWestern Energy; University of Montana-Missoula**

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**THAT**

The Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes the University of Montana to grant a gas utility easement to NorthWestern Energy (NWE) north of 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Maurice Street and Van Buren Street.

This item is consistent with the Board's authority to manage the Montana University System in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 1003.6.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. UM is requesting authorization to grant NWE a 10ft wide utility easement to provide and install an underground gas main line that will supply the new Athletics Indoor Practice Facility and the Montana Museum of Art and Culture (MMAC). There is no cost for the gas main line installation.
  2. Both the Indoor Practice Facility and MMAC were approved previously by the BOR. Costs to install branch gas lines to these two structures are included within the respective two building construction budgets.
  3. UM is receiving "fair value" for the easement in that NWE will supply and install the gas line at no cost to UM. Without the gas line, there would be no energy source to heat the Indoor Practice Facility or MMAC considering the option to extend steam tunnels to these two new structures would be cost prohibitive.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1: Gas Easement from NWE and Exhibit A map
- Attachment #2: Easement exhibit showing property information