**Loads & Resources Data Request**

**TRANSAC**

**December 17, 2013**

**Update**

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Loads and Resources Subcommittee is finalizing any changes to the Loads and Resources Data Request. The information asked for will be similar to last year's data request. NorthWestern Energy (NWMT) uses the data collected to plan, construct, operate and maintain its Transmission System in accordance with Good Utility Practice and its planning obligations in Attachment K.

On December 4, 2013, the NERC 2013/2014 Winter Assessment was posted on the NERC website at <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2013WRA_Final.pdf> For the 2013–2014 winter operating period, all assessment areas project sufficient resources to meet peak demands.

On December 9, 2013, the 2013 Long-Term Reliability Assessment was posted on the NERC website at <http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2013_LTRA_FINAL.pdf>

The 2013 Long-Term Reliability Assessment identified six issues:

 1. Resource Adequacy Assessments fall below Planning Reserve Margin Targets in MISO.

 2. High Levels of Variable Generation may Present Operational and Planning Challenges.

 3. Fossil-Fired Retirements and Coordination of Outages for Environmental Control Retrofits Continue to Present Challenges.

 4. Continued Increases in Natural Gas-Fired Generation may Require Enhancements to Planning and Operations.

 5. Increased Use of Demand-Side Management (DSM) Creates More Uncertainty for System Planners and Operators.

 6. Nuclear Generation Retirements and Long-Term Outages Reduce Flexibility and Present Potential Reliability Challenges.