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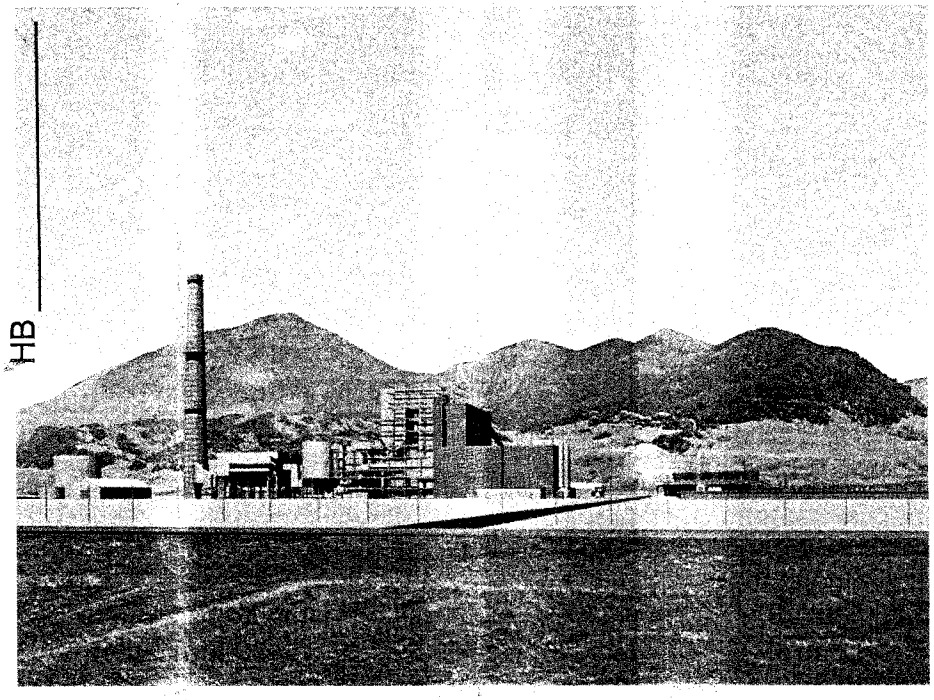

Proposed Highwood Generating Station

City of Great Falls

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10 Reasons

Why Great Falls is Involved in Electrical Energy—including Customer Choice and Generation

1. The City believes it needs to control its own energy costs to the extent possible. For example, NorthWestern Energy unilaterally cancelled the City's long-term energy supply contract in 2003, costing the City over $1 million over a five-year period.

2. Local taxpayers and ratepayers benefit from the City providing lower cost electricity to governmental entities such as Great Falls Public Schools, City water and wastewater systems, and the Great Falls International Airport.

3. The local economy benefits when major employers have access to stable, reasonably priced electricity. It helps make Great Falls economically competitive.

4. The City is helping to establish a small niche for public power in energy supply. Every Western state plus the Dakotas and Nebraska has some provision for public power except Montana. Other states view a mix of power providers, including investor-owned utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public power agencies as benefiting consumers through controlled competition.

5. Involvement in electricity generation will help Great Falls expand its economic cluster of energy-related businesses to position the region as an energy center in Montana.

6. Having base load generation in the Great Falls area will help encourage other energy development, including renewable energy resources, by providing shared services and resources.

7. The Highwood Generating Station will provide several hundred construction jobs for at least three years and 65 permanent jobs in Cascade County.

8. The power plant will provide a substantial addition to the tax base of Cascade County for the improvement of infrastructure and services.

9. The generating station will require substantial new infrastructure such as water and sewer lines. This new infrastructure will help attract other business and industry to Great Falls and Cascade County.

10. The Highwood Generating Station will demonstrate that a facility using Montana coal and the best available emissions control technology can be built and operated in an environmentally responsible manner while having no significant adverse impact on air and water quality