

May 15-16, 2024

**ITEM 212-2001-R0524**

**Request for Authorization to Grant a Utility Easement for an Electrical Circuit From NorthWestern Energy; Montana State University**

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**THAT**

Consistent with BOR Policy 1003.6, the Board of Regents of the Montana University System authorizes Montana State University to grant a utility easement to NorthWestern Energy for the campus electrical circuit from the Sourdough substation, which will be located on MSU-owned property.

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**EXPLANATION**

1. The campus electrical circuit from the NorthWestern Energy Sourdough substation will be located on the east side of campus between South 3rd Avenue and South 5th Avenue.
  2. Campus electrical system capacity limitations were identified during a recent update of the campus electrical distribution plan completed by HDR, an engineering firm.
  3. This easement, in conjunction with the project, will address campus electrical capacity limitations by improving continuity of operations and will improve our utility resilience by providing another circuit from a separate NorthWestern Energy substation. Currently, MSU is only served by one electrical feed from the substation at 11th Avenue and College Street intersection.
  4. This request and the associated easement do not grant rights-of-way.
  5. The easement benefits MSU and satisfies the requirements in BOR Policy 1003.6 by providing power upgrade connections to service the growing MSU campus.
  6. No state funds are requested as part of this easement.
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**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1- Easement Exhibit