SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 15
DATE 1-24-07
BILL NO. SB-217

NorthWestern Energy
Total Property Taxes, Mill Levies and Amounts Protested

Year	Total Property Tax Levied[1,2]	Average Mill Levy[3]	Amount Protested
2006	$71.4 million	528.6	$16.3 million
2005	$66.8 million	523.0	$11.6 million
2004	$55.2 million	515.0	-0-
2003	$56.3 million	505.1	-0-
2002	$49.7 million	471.6	-0-

[1] Total property tax including the tax on regulated utility property, unregulated property (primarily Colstrip 4 leasehold), and special property taxes (e.g., Crow Tribe, Blackfoot Loop, etc.)

[2] 5-year increase in taxes levied equals 43.7% .

[3] 5-year increase in mill levies equals 12.1%.

Summary of MT DOR Market Value Indicator Weightings

	2006*	2005**	2004	2003	2002
Original Cost less Depreciation	37	33	*Not*	85	30
Direct Capitalization of Net Operating Income	30	33	*Available*	5	10
Direct Capitalization of Gross Cash Flow	0	1	*due to*	5	5
Yield Capitalization of Cash Flows	8	33	*Settlement*		
Stock & Debt	25			5	5
Direct Market Sale					50
	100	100	0	100	100

** Tax Protested - Decision on hold until the 2005 Tax Appeal has been decided upon.*

*** Tax Appeal in process. State Tax Appeal Board hearing set for week of February 5, 2007.*

NorthWestern Energy					
A Tax History - 2002 to 2006					
Year	Total Property Tax (in millions)	Tax on Unregulated Property (in millions)	Tax on Regulated Utility Property (in millions)	Tax Collected on Regulated Utility Sales (in millions)	Surplus/ Deficit (in millions)
2006	$71.4	$2.6	$68.8	$60.5	($8.3)
2005	$66.8	$2.5	$64.3	$60.4	($3.8)
2004	$55.2	$2.3	$52.9	$50.9	($2.0)
2003	$56.3	$2.7	$53.6	$47.3	($6.3)
2002	$49.7	$3.5	$46.2	$48.2	$2.0
Totals (in millions)	$299.4	$13.6	$285.8	$267.3	($18.4)