



NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE

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September 8, 2003

Mr. Robert Harris  
Regional Manager  
Upper Great Plains Region  
Western Area Power Administration  
2900 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Billings, MT 59101-1266

Dear Bob:

SUBJECT: Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Power Rate

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) appreciates this opportunity to submit comments regarding the upcoming power rate increase for 2004-05. Thank you for keeping your customers adequately informed of your progress on this important task. NIPCO's only comment at this time is regarding the schedule for the rate increase. NIPCO strongly supports a two-step rate increase with the first step in January 2004 and the second step in October 2004 if needed at that time.

Sincerely,

NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent D. Pauling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Kent D. Pauling  
Executive Vice President  
and General Manager

KDP:mrs

cc: NIPCO – Ver Mulm