

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 97-5-19**

Date Prepared: May 15, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: May 19, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: May 19, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. Section 271 of Telecommunications Act of 1996 - Discuss the possible initiation of a proceeding to determine US West's progress in meeting the 14 point competitive checklist for entry into the in-region interlata market (5/20/97)
2. Air Page vs. USWC Docket D97.4.63 - To grant an extension for USWC to file an answer and to request that such extensions be delegated to staff (5/20/97)
3. MPC Docket D96.2.22 - Discuss and act on matters as necessary (5/20/97)
4. MDU Dockets D97.3.43 and D97.3.56 - Discuss and act on matters as necessary (5/20/97)
5. Continued discussion of electric and gas industry restructuring (5/20/97)
6. Weekly Scheduling Meeting - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.4.82 (Nina)

On May 5, 1997, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 97-18, "Correction-Index Page Release Number". This filing corrects Section 5, Index pages Release Numbers, due to the timing of approvals on filing packages.

2. MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D97.2.29 (Denise)

Power Procurement Group (PPG) filed a late Petition to Intervene. PPG is a broker for retired energy consumers. PPG agrees not to broaden or delay the proceedings. Staff recommends approval.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. - Docket N97.5.83 (Vicki)

On May 9, 1997, Montana Dakota Utilities Co. filed tariff revisions to reflect changes in the business practices of MDU's interconnecting pipeline Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The revisions include: changing the definition of "Gas Day" from a 24 hour consecutive hour period beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the applicable time zone to 9:00 a.m. Central Clock Time; revising the time required for customers to provide the Company's gas nomination center with its estimated gas requirements from 9:00 a.m. Central Time to 11:30 a.m. Central Clock Time; and to allow customers to make standing nominations that cover periods longer than 1 day.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Colstrip Community Services Company Dockets D97.4.60 and D97.4.61 - NSA amending procedural schedule was served May 12, 1997

Air Page vs. USWC Docket D97.4.63 - NSA granting USWC's an extension time to reply was served May 15, 1997

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-5-27

Docket N97.5.83 MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES (Vicki)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N97.5.83 MDU - Revise Transportation Service Rates 81, 82 & 84

N97.5.84 WorldCom - Intro Intelenet and revise backbilling language