

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-11-23**

Date Prepared: November 19, 1998
For Work Week Commencing: November 23, , 1998
Business Meeting: November 23, 1998, 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 Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located 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. Seeley Lake Gas Co. Docket D96.8.136 – Seeley Lake Gas Company – Discussion/action on Final Order (11/24/98)
2. Great Falls Gas Docket D98.3.68 – GFG restructuring – Post hearing/briefing discussion, direction, and action on the merits (11/24/98)
3. Montana Power Company Docket D98.8.183 – Suspension of MPC LTQF-1 tariff – Direction on MPC's request and to review the matter generally (11/24/98)
4. USWC Docket D98.10.243 – Investigation of USWC "Custom Choice" – To consider appropriate action (11/24/98)
5. USWC Docket D98.8.192 – USWC Final Pricing Docket – Discuss comments received and a procedural schedule for this final and generic cost docket (11/24/98)

6. Southern Montana Telephone Docket D97.11.225 – SMT Interstate Carrier Access Charge – Discuss final order (11/24/98)

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. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS CO – Docket N98.11.261 (Nina)

On November 5, 1998, Sprint filed charges to its Montana Price List No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to: restructure the rates for Residential Sprint Service Business MTS, and Stand-Alone FONCARD calls; decrease Sprint Business Flex 50 and 500 Dial 1, Toll Free and FONCARD Rates; and to make minor text changes. This was notice item 11/16/98. Staff recommends approval.

2. ALLNET COMM. dba FRONTIER COMM. – Docket N98.11.263 (Nina)

On November 5, 1998, Allnet Communication Services dba Frontier Communications Services, Inc., filed changes to its PSC Montana Tariff No. 1. This filing increases the billing increments applicable to the following service options: Maxcess III, Vantage, Homesaver, Multipoint 800, Product One (switched and dedicated) and Product One Multipoint 800, Access Travel and Product One calls placed through Access Travel. This filing also increases the per call surcharge applicable to calls placed through Access Travel or Spectrum. This was a notice item 11/16/98. Staff recommends approval.

3. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP – Docket N98.11.267 (Nina)

On November 6, 1998, MCI Telecommunications filed Transmittal Letter No. 98-19, reflecting a minor text change to Option DD (MCI WorldCom On-Net Services). This was a notice item 11/16/98. Staff recommends approval.

4. WAXS, INC. and Cherry Communications, Inc. – N98.10.237 (Karen)

On September 21, 1998 the Commission received a joint application from WAXS, INC. and Cherry Communications, Inc. requesting approval whereby WAXS, INC. (WAXS) would acquire ownership and control of Cherry Communications Inc. (CCI). CCI is authorized to provide telecommunications service on a resale basis in Montana. WAXS is a provider of wireline and wireless switching, transport, and access products for the global telecommunications market place. This was a notice item on Agenda 98-11-16 and no comments have been received.

5. Calls for Less, Inc. to ILD Telecommunications, Inc. – N98.11.259 (Karen)

On November 2, 1998 the Commission received notification of the transfer control from Calls for Less, Inc. (CFL) to ILD Telecommunications, Inc. (ILD). CFL is currently certified to provide intrastate telecommunications service in Montana and will continue to operate as a telecommunications service provider in Montana after the transfer of control. The transfer of control is transparent to consumers in Montana and will not adversely affect the provision of telecommunication services in Montana. This was a notice item on Agenda 98-11-16 and no comments have been received.

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, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. DOCKET NO. D98.11.272 (ERIC)

On November 13, 1998, MDU filed an application for authority to issue up to \$75,000,000 of short-term indebtedness either in the form of ordinary unsecured promissory notes and/or in the form of commercial paper. The short-term borrowing authority requested is through December 31, 2000. This level of short-term borrowing is an increase of \$25,000,000 from the level previously authorized by the Commission in Docket No. D96.11.183.

1. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D98.11.275 (ERIC)

On November 18, 1998, MPC filed an application seeking authority to issue, assume or guarantee short-term, principally unsecured borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$150,000,000 outstanding at any one time during the period from January 1, 1999, through and including December 31, 2000.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 98-11-30

D98.11.272 – MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Eric)

New Filings Received in Past Week

D98.11.266 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – MDU Gas Tracker

N98.11.270 – Citizens Communications Co – PSC investigation into overhead costs

N98.11.271 – Grant Creek Water Works – Suit filed by HCFP vs L&J Investment Co (Jack Green, Grant Creek Water Co)

D98.11.272 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – MDU securities issues

D98.11.273 – USWC – USWC/Preferred Carriers, Inc. resale agreement application

D98.11.274 – MDU – Approval of transportation services agreement with Cenex

D98.11.275 – MPC – Approval for short term borrowing