

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 99-1-25**

Date Prepared: January 21, 1999  
For Work Week Commencing: January 25, 1999  
Business Meeting: January 25, 1999, 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, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.*

*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. D97.7.90 – MPC USBC order – Discuss draft order (1/26/99)
  
2. N98.10.241 – USWC's tariff filing which would allow it to price flexibly in Sidney and Fairview exchanges – Consider objection of Mid-Rivers to PSC approval of Tariff Transmittal 98-45; Consider whether to schedule a hearing or to reject the filing as noncompliant with PSC's original flexible pricing order criteria (1/26/99)

Legislative Meeting – If needed – Will be held at 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

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. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. DOCKET NO. D99.1.1 (Eric)

On December 29, 1998, MDU Resources Group, Inc. filed an application for authority to issue up to \$400,000,000 of long-term financing over a two-year period of some or all of the following kinds of securities, but in each case within the maximum limits for each kind; \$400,000,000 worth of the Company's Common Stock, \$40,000,000 worth of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or Preferred Stock A, and/or \$120,000,000 principal amount of the Company's secured debt securities. The Company seeks the flexibility to vary the maximum issuance amount for each type of security, so long as the aggregate issuance amount of all such securities does not exceed \$400,000,000. A default order has been drafted.

2. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT Docket D98.12.296 (Eric)

On December 29, 1998, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on January 6, 1999. Requests for hearing were due by January 25, 1999. No requests have been received. This application will decrease rates by \$3,453 under the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

3. Citizens Communications - N99.1.5 (Wendy)

On January 13, 1999, Citizens Communications filed Advice Letter No. MT-99-01 to introduce two additional CLASS services-- Caller ID with Name and Caller ID with Name --Value PAK. The associated minimum rates, the current price list, and supporting cost data for the new services were also filed. This item was noticed on 1/19/99. 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, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MPC DOCKET NO. D98.10.217, Interim ORDER NO. 6114a (Dave)

Resulting from an on site MCC audit, MPC is requesting a rate reduction from Interim Order 6114a, Docket No. D98.10.217

2. CLARK FORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.1.8 (Tina)

On January 19, 1999, Clark Fork Telecommunications filed a revised tariff page to change the calculation for prorating bills. Current tariffs assume a 30-day month. The revised tariff assumes each month has 31 days for the purpose of prorating opening and closing bills, resulting in a lower per day charge for customers.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-2-1**

Docket N99.1.8 – Clark Fork Telecomm – Tariff filing to change calculation for prorating bills

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D99.1.6 – Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative – IntraLATA

N99.1.7 – Glacier Energy – Application for permanent electricity license

N99.1.8 – Clark Fork Telecommunications – Tariff to change calculation for prorating bills