

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 99-10-25**

Date Prepared: October 21, 1999
For Work Week Commencing: October 25, 1999
Business Meeting: October 25, 1999, **9:00** 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. D99.4.111 – Ronan Telephone – Petition for Suspensions of Requirements of 96 Act – To continue discussion of a final order in this docket and to take action and make decisions as necessary (10/25/99)
2. BTU Monitoring – Discuss renewing BTU Monitoring contract for 99/2000 hearing season (10/26/99)
3. Pipeline Safety Rules – Obtain PSC approval to notice annual update of pipeline safety rules (10/26/99)
4. N99.9.218 – Croft Petroleum – Discussion/Action on application for natural gas supplier license (10/26/99)
5. D98.10.217 – MPC gas tracker – Discussion, direction, action on draft order adopting interim order (11) as final order (10/26/99)
6. D99.2.53 – Shelby Gas Association – Discussion, direction, action on draft order adopting interim order as final order (10/26/99)

7. D99.4.93 – MDU annual true-up for monthly gas tracker – Discussion, direction, action on draft final order (10/26/99)
8. D99.6.145 – Cut Bank Gas – Discussion, direction, action on final order (10/26/99)
9. N99.6.143 – HB 128 effects – Status update on Companies (10/26/99)
10. D99.4.86 – Fairmont Hot Springs interim Rate Relief – Decision on Interim Rate Relief (10/26/99)
11. D97.7.90 – CONTINUED REQUEST: MPC court case on Standards of Conduct – Further discussion on settling lawsuit on Standards of Conduct, Cause No. DV-98-200 (Butte district court)(10/26/99)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at **8:45** a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

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

1. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT DOCKET NO. D99.10.223 (Eric)

On October 1, 1999, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on October 4, 1999. Requests for hearing were due by October 25, 1999. No requests have been received. This application will decrease rates by \$6,870 below the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

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. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N99.10.235 (Dave)

On October 20, 1999, US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-58 to propose for a limited time, a focused location Competitive Response Promotion (WinBack) for residential and business customers. The program offers incentives for customers, who have chosen to obtain local service from an alternative provider, to return to US West. The duration of the promotion is 90 days. The Competitive Zone includes only Terry, Sidney, Glendive, Wibaux and Fairfield. US West has stated that in all of those exchanges a facilities based alternative provider is present.

2. AT&T COMMUNICATIONS N99.10.238 (DAVE)

On October 14, 1999, AT&T Communications filed an application to withdraw AT&T's Easy Reach 500 Service and Easy Reach 700 service (the "Services") effective November 15, 1999. The services are interstate services and only available intrastate as an add-on to interstate services. AT&T seeks to withdraw the intrastate Services coincident with the discontinuance of the interstate services.

3. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS DOCKET NO. N99.10.234 (ERIC)

On October 13, 1999, US WEST filed Tariff Transmittal 99-57 for approval of some new Custom Calling features. The new products are Caller ID with Privacy +, Dial Lock, Do Not Disturb, and No Solicitation. Residence customers who order any of the features between November 15, 1999, and December 31, 1999 will receive a waiver of the nonrecurring charge. Caller ID with Privacy + provides subscribers with the ability to screen private and unidentified calls that are placed to their number. Dial Lock is a service that allows residential and small business customers the ability to manage outbound local and long distance calls placed from their telephones by blocking certain types of calls. Do Not Disturb allows customers to prevent the ringing of their telephone during specified hours. No solicitation is a feature designed to deter telemarketing, solicitation calls.

4. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS N99.10.236 (Leroy)

On October 13, 1999, US West filed notification of its introduction of Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN) as a deregulated product offering in Montana.

5. US WEST COMMUNIICATIONS N99.10.237 (Leroy)

On October 13, 1999 US West filed Tariff Transmittal 99-56 requesting the elimination of the StartUp and Upgrade Business Packages. The packages have become outdated with the introduction of Business CustomChoice.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-11-1

New Filings Received in Past Week

N99.10.238 – AT&T – Application to withdraw Easy Reach 500/700 Services

D99.10.239 – Cut Bank Gas – Application for gas rate increase