

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 00-04-24**

Date Published: April 20, 2000
For Work Week Commencing: April 24, 2000
Business Meeting: April 24, 2000, 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. MPC sale of utility and related divisions – To discuss whether scheduling weekly work sessions on this matter is advisable (4/24/00)
2. N99.7.177 – Telecommunications Resellers Association – “Fresh Look” Discuss (4/24/00)
3. N99.10.226 – USWC – Tenant Solutions Tariff – To discuss and act on US West's motion of reconsideration (4/24/00)

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. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT Docket D2000.4.49 (Eric)

On April 5, 2000, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on April 7, 2000. Requests for hearing were due by April 24, 2000. No requests have been received. This application will decrease rates by \$7,744 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

2. McLeod USA/USWC Interconnect Agrmt , Docket No. D99.11.252 (Robin)

On April 5 USWC and McLeod filed a First Amendment to Agreement for Resale. The amendment makes changes to the agreement pursuant to PSC Order No. 6230. Recommend approval.

3. FirsTel /USWC Interconnect Agrmt , Docket No. D98.12.281 (Robin)

On April 5 USWC and FirsTel filed a First Amendment to Agreement for Wireline Interconnection. The amendment was submitted because FirsTel wants "to access certain preexisting combinations of unbundled network elements in accordance with the FCC's November 5, 1999 Order [In the Matter of the Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996] and related federal regulations." Recitals. The present agreement does not address such combinations. Recommend approval.

4. Avista/USWC Interconnection Agrmt , Docket No. D99.2.41 (Robin)

On April 5 USWC and Avista filed a Second Amendment to Agreement for Wireline Interconnection. The amendment was submitted because Avista wants "to access certain preexisting combinations of unbundled network elements in accordance with the FCC's November 5, 1999 Order [In the Matter of the Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996] and related federal regulations." Recitals. The present agreement does not address such combinations. Recommend approval.

5. DSLnet/USWC Interconnection Agrmt , Docket No. D99.8.195(Robin)

On April 5 USWC and DSLnet filed a Second Amendment to Agreement for Wireline Interconnection. The amendment was submitted because DSLnet wants "to access certain preexisting combinations of unbundled network elements in accordance with the FCC's November 5, 1999 Order [In the Matter of the Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996] and related federal regulations." Recitals. The present agreement does not address such combinations. Recommend approval.

6. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS Docket N2000.4.53 (LEROY)

On April 12, 2000, Citizens Communications filed Advice Letter No. MT-00-03 to add Line Arrangement for Electronic Business Sets as an Optional Feature for Centrex Services. This allows for a Centrex line arrangement for the use of customer provided business sets.

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. CUT BANK GAS COMPANY Docket D2000.4.55 (LEROY)

On April 13, 2000, Cut Bank Gas Company requested authority to increase rates to its customers in order to reflect all cost increases granted to the Montana Power Company in Docket D99.8.176, Order No. 6197c.

2. MCI Telecommunications Corporation, N2000.4.56 (Scott)

On April 7, 2000, MCI Telecommunications Corporation filed Transmittal letter No. 99-24 proposing revisions to its Montana Tariff No. 2. MCI is requesting to increase the existing directory assistance rate to \$1.49 and

to add a \$0.10 per minute charge to the directory assistance section for directory assistance calls made by non-MCI customers and completed by a directory assistance operator.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 00-05-01

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2000.4.55 – Cut Bank Gas – Application for gas rate increase

N2000.4.56 – MCI WORLDCOM – Tariff 99-24 to increase directory assistance rate; additional charge to directory assistance for non-MCI customers