MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 02-09-17

Date Published: September 12, 2002
For Work Week Commencing: September 16, 2002
Business Meeting: September 17, 2002, 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 Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. He 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.

1. D2002.7.93 – PSC – Placeholder to Discuss Progress of Electricity Forums. (09/17/02)

2. SMD NOPR – Placeholder/Action as Necessary, to Discuss Comment Deadline and Other Issues. (09/17/02)

3. N2002.7.96 – Montana ETC's – Discussion/Action on Annual Certification. (09/17/02)

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. MONTANA POWER COMPANY D97.11.219 (Eric)

On September 9, 2002, MPC filed its seventh semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by MPC in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent MPC is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an overcollection of 21.03 percent or $741,805. The variance was a result of higher actual collections versus the prior estimated collections. The new decreased FTA rates include the overcollection. There is a slight increase in the FTA-RA (Utility) rate. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges be approved effective October 1, 2002.

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. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. Qwest Communications N2002.9.107 (Scott)

On August 27, 2002, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 02-23, Business Product Save Offer Promotion. Business customers who request to have one or more products such as Flat business lines, Qwest Business line plus, Business CustomChoice, Hunting Service, Call Forwarding-busy line/Don't answer, and Market Expansion line, and after having been informed of the products benefit, may be offered a 25 percent product discount for the next three months in the form of a credit(s) to their next three bills, if they agree to retain the product(s). The promotional period is scheduled to run from September 23, 2002 through December 21, 2002.

2. Qwest Communications N2002.9.106 (Scott)

On August 30, 2002, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 02-25, Expanded Business CustomChoice. This filing is designed to expand the Business Basic Exchange product line by introducing one, two, and three year rate stabilized terms for CustomChoice for business, and by allowing the purchase of Qwest Utility line in conjunction with rate stabilized Business CustomChoice. In addition, the 3-line restriction has been removed so that customers will not be limited by the number of Business CustomChoice lines they can purchase. Qwest is requesting an October 1, 2002 effective date for this expanded service.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 02-09-24

New Filings Received in Past Week

N2002.9.113 – Qwest – Tariff Transmittal 02-26 – ISDN Single Line Promo
D2002.9.114 – Qwest – Qwest Corporation and Range Telephone – Wireline Interconnection Agreement
D2002.9.115 – Montana Dakota Utilities – Application to Implement a Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment Change