

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 03-03-25**

Date Published: March 20, 2003  
For Work Week Commencing: March 24, 2003  
Business Meeting: March 25, 2003, 9:30 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. N2003.2.26 & N2003.3.27 – Project Telephone Company, Valley Telecommunications, Inc. – Directory Assistance. (3/25/03)
2. Complaints Regarding Touch America & United Carrier Networks (UCN). (3/25/03)
3. D2002.5.59 – MDU – General Rate Case. (3/25/03)
4. PSC-MCC Fees. (3/25/03)
5. Legislative/Budget
6. PSC – Protective Orders. (3/25/03)
7. D2000.1.14 – Ronan Telephone Company – In the Matter of Reciprocal Compensation Rates. (3/27/03)

**Other Meetings**

**3/26/03 – 9:00 am D2002.6.63 – NWE – QF-1 Tariff Extension Hearing (Bollinger Room)**

**3/26/03 – (Call of the Chair) Legislative/Budget**

**3/27/03 – 9:00 am Legislative/Budget**

**3/27/03 – D2000.1.14 – Ronan Telephone Company – In the Matter of Reciprocal Compensation Rates (Bollinger Room)**

**3/28/03 – 9:00 am Legislative/Budget**

**3/31/03 – 9:00 am Legislative/Budget**

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

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

1. QWEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.                      N2003.3.28                      (Leroy)

On March 4, 2003, Qwest Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 03-05, Telephone Assistance Program Revision. The revision is proposing new tariff language regarding application of the Telephone Assistance Program (TAP) to employee accounts with concession. The purpose of the filing is to insure employees or retirees qualified for TAP, and with either 100% or 50% concession for their local service, receive 100% TAP benefits less the amount of their concession discount. The reason for the change is that if the TAP benefit is not reduced by the amount of the concession, Qwest could be in the position of actually crediting an employee for more than the amount of the actual bill. This new tariff change cleans up a unique situation regarding a very limited number of Qwest employees and retirees that qualify for TAP. Qwest is requesting an April 3, 2003 effective date.

2. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY                      D97.11.219                      (Eric)

On March 10, 2003, NWE filed its eighth semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by NWE 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 NWE is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an overcollection of 2.86 percent or \$132,626. The variance was a result of higher actual collections versus the prior estimated collections. The new increased FTA rates include the overcollection. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges be approved effective April 1, 2003.

**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. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY N2003.3.32 (Leroy)

On March 14, 2003, Citizens Telecommunications Company filed Advice Letter No. MT-03-03 for a special promotion beginning April 15, 2003 and continuing through May 14, 2003 where technically available. Residential customers who order Caller ID Name and Number as an individual service on their existing lines will receive a waiver of the Nonrecurring Records only charges and a Caller ID display unit worth \$20 retail. If the customer does not subscribe for at least 90 continuous days a subsequent reversing charge will apply. Residential customers who order Caller ID Name and Number as part of the Select or Select Plus service package will have the Nonrecurring Records Only Charges waived and a Caller ID display cordless telephone worth \$50 retail. If the customer does not subscribe for at least 90 continuous days a subsequent reversing charge will apply. Citizens is requesting an April 15 effective date.

2. CenturyTel Docket No. N2003.3.31 (Scott)

On March 12, 2003, CenturyTel filed tariff advice No. 03-02. In this filing CenturyTel is requesting to run a promotion, which is scheduled to run April 15, 2003 through June 15, 2003. During this period, customers who sign up for Simple Choice service and keep the service for at least two months will be eligible to receive a rebate check of \$25.00. In order to receive the rebate, customers must submit copies of their bill by October 31, 2003 as proof of service. Customers who have not paid their bills are not eligible for the rebate.

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

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 03-04-01**

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

N2003.3.31 – CenturyTel – TT 03-2 – Type (13) – Tariff Rates & Conditions  
 N2003.3.32 – Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana – Special Promotion Tariffs  
 N2003.3.33 – CenturyTel – TT 03-3  
 D2003.3.34 – Southern Montana Telephone Company – Notice of Proposed Increase in local Service Rates.