

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 04-08-24**

Date Published: August 19, 2004  
For Work Week Commencing: August 23, 2004  
Commission Meeting: August 24, 2004, 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 Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She 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.*

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

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

1. Qwest N2004.8.130 (Scott)

On August 10, 2004, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 04-12, Clarify Business Routing Language. This filing clarifies the term and conditions of Business Continuation routing by adding the phrase "from the forward switch." The product has been recently enhanced with a Voice Response Unit (VRU) that allows the customer to activate their contingency routing at anytime and from any location. Qwest is requesting a September 1, 2004 effective date.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2003.10.156 – 3 Rivers PCS – ETC Application. (8/24/04)
2. D2004.6.94 – Qwest – Section 272 Biennial Audit. (8/24/04)
3. D2003.12.173 – Wilder Resorts, Inc. dba Fairmont Hot Springs Resort – Application to Increase Rates and Charges for Sewer Service. (8/24/04)
4. D2004.3.47 – Cut Bank Gas – General Rate Case, Interim. (8/24/04)
5. D2003.7.86 and D2004.6.96 – NorthWestern Energy – NorthWestern Energy Annual QF Avoided Cost Dockets. (8/24/04)
6. D2003.8.109 – Montana Consumer Counsel and NorthWestern Corporation – Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Order. (8/24/04)
7. D2004.3.45 – NorthWestern Energy – Basin Creek Advanced Approval. (8/24/04)
8. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to Report on and Get Direction on Any Matter Related to the Bankruptcy. (8/24/04)
9. Legislation / Energy and Telecom Interim Committee. (8/24/04)
10. CDV-2003-443 (Court) – PSC – NorthWestern Energy v. PSC (Judicial Review of D2002.11.140, Gas Tracker Case). (8/24/04)
11. **1:30 p.m.** D2003.1.14 – Western Wireless – ETC Designation Petition. (8/24/04)
12. **8/25/04 10:00 a.m.** NorthWestern Bankruptcy Plan Confirmation Hearing via Teleconference. (8/25/04)

**Other Meetings**

**8/25//04 10:00 a.m. D2003.6.75 – Energy West Montana – Annual Gas Tracker Hearing (Great Falls)**

**8/26/04 10:00 a.m. – D2003.12.173 – Wilder Resorts - Hearing (Fairmont)**

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

**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. Montana-Dakota Utilities N2004.8.134 (Dave B)

On August 17, 2004, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) filed a request for Contract Service – Rural Water System Rate 36 and the Electric Service Agreement between MDU and Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority (Dry Prairie). MDU requests permission to remove the generation costs from its Large General Service Rate 30 and issue this new Rate 36. The demand charge is reduced from \$4.99 per kw to \$4.17 and the energy charge is reduced from and average charge of 3.550 ¢ per kwh to 2.040 ¢ per kwh. This request is being made due to a Federal Mandate.

2. CenturyTel of Montana N2004.8.132 (Scott)

On August 17, 2004, CenturyTel filed Tariff Transmittal No. 2004-04. In this filing CenturyTel is renaming Schedule 31 from 'Emergency Number Service (911)' to 'Emergency Communications Services'. Also, two new service offerings are to be added to the schedule: Enhanced Universal Emergency Number Service (E9-1-1) and Emergency Notification Service. The requested effective date for this filing is September 17, 2004.

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

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

N2004.8.132 – CenturyTel – Transmittal No. 2004-04

D2004.8.133 – Qwest Corporation – Qwest Corporation's Provision of Wholesale Service to Local Service Competitors

N2004.8.134 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Tariff Transmittal - Contract Service–Rural Water System Rate 36 and Electric Service Agreement between Montana-Dakota Utilities and Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority

N2004.8.135 – Qwest Services Corporation – Tariff Transmittal 04-013, Residential and Business Competitive Response Programs

D2004.7.113 – NorthWestern Energy – September 1, 2004 Monthly Natural Gas Cost Rate Adjustment

D2004.7.114 – NorthWestern Energy – September 1, 2004 Monthly Electric Default Supply Cost Rate Adjustment