

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 05-03-22**

Date Published: March 17, 2005
For Work Week Commencing: March 21, 2005
Commission Meeting: March 22, 2005, 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. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY D97.11.219 (Eric)

On March 9, 2005, NWE filed its eleventh 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 under collection of 2.91 percent or (\$132,843). An increase in FTA-GP, FTA-RA (Core), FTA-RA Utility, FTA-RA (Non-Core) rates is necessary based on future payment

obligations and projected market load. The new FTA rates should ensure enough funds are collected to make the next principal and interest payment. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges be approved effective April 1, 2005.

2. Qwest Corporation N2005.3.24 (Scott)

On March 4, 2005, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 05-05, 2005 Spring Fling Promotion.

For a limited 89 day period beginning April 4, 2005, and continuing until July 1, 2005, Qwest is proposing to offering a special per span promotional price of \$585 on Primary Rate ISDN service, and \$399 on advanced Digital Switch Service and \$645 on Basic Digital Switched service on three year contracts for customers seeking to: Install new PRS/DSS Service., Renew contracts to 3 year contract term, Migrate analog, DSS or UAS services to a PRS 3 year contract (no Migration credits), Migrate Analog to a DSS 3 year contract (no Migration credits), Winback customers to Qwest PRS 3 year contract (no WinBack credits), Customers requested due date can be no later than September 2, 2005, Installation charges will be waived, Contracts need to be signed no later than July 1, 2005. "Probable motion: Approve Qwest's tariff filing in N2005.3.24 for Spring Fling Promotion."

3. Qwest Communications Corporation N2005.3.26 (Scott)

On March 8, 2005, Qwest Communications Corporation (QCC) filed Tariff Transmittal 05-01. This filing is introducing the Choice Unlimited, 5 Cent, and 300 Minute Calling Plan for residential customers. In addition, this revision is also moving the Qwest Choice Long distance plan for Residential customers to the Obsolete Service Offering Section. QCC is also adding Employee Discount Language to section 2 and Free Nights and Weekends to several Residential calling plans. "Probable motion: Approve QCC's Tariff Transmittal QCC05-01 in Docket N2005.3.26."

4. Qwest Long Distance N2005.3.27 (Scott)

On March 8, 2005, Qwest LD Corp. (QLDC) filed Tariff Transmittal 05-02. This filing is introducing the Choice Unlimited, 5 Cent, and 300 Minute Calling Plan for residential customers. In addition, this revision is also moving the Qwest Choice Long distance plan for Residential customers to the Obsolete Service Offering Section. QLDC is also adding Employee Discount Language to section 2 and Free Nights and Weekends to several

Residential calling plans. "Probable motion: Approve QLDC's Tariff Transmittal QLDC05-02 in Docket N2005.3.27."

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

1. **(3/21/05, 1:30 p.m.)** – Legislative Matters – Discuss bills and other matters related to the 2005 session.
2. D2003.8.105 – Mid Rivers Cellular (MRC) – Discuss the draft final order and obtain necessary Commission direction to revise and issue the final order. (3/21/05)
3. L-04.07.5-RUL – ETC Rules – Discussion, direction, action on adoption of proposed rules. (3/21/05)
4. (1) D2003.10.156, 3 Rivers PCS; (2) D2004.3.46, Blackfoot Communications Inc.; (3) D2004.3.38, Range Telephone Co-op; (4) D2004.1.5, Interbel Wireless Inc; (5) D2000.5.64, Interbel Telephone Cooperative; (6) D2004.1.6, Triangle Communications System; (7) D2004.1.7, Sagebrush Cellular Inc.; (8) D2004.1.8, Northern Telecom Inc.; and (9) D2004.8.127, VCI Company – Provide a brief overview (status) of the additional petitions filed for ETC designation. (3/21/05)
5. D2004.2.21 – Montana Attorney General – Discuss and act on (1) NorthWestern Energy's request for protection against additional discovery and (2) NorthWestern Energy's motion to quash/AG's motion for order to compel NorthWestern production. (3/21/05)
6. D2005.2.14 – NorthWestern Energy – Discuss and act on any matters related to the docket. (3/21/05)
7. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to report on and get direction on any matter related to the bankruptcy. (3/21/05)
8. Legislative Matters – Discuss bills and other matters related to the 2005 session. (3/21/05)
9. **(3/23/05, 9:30 a.m.)** - Legislative Matters – Discuss bills and other matters related to the 2005 session.

10. **(3/24/05, 9:30 a.m.)** - Legislative Matters – Discuss bills and other matters related to the 2005 session.
11. **(3/25/05, 9:30 a.m.)** - Legislative Matters – Discuss bills and other matters related to the 2005 session

Other Meetings

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.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. QWEST SERVICES CORPORATION N2005.3.31 (Leroy)

On March 15, 2005, Qwest Services Corporation filed Tariff Transmittal 05-AC01, Common Channel Signaling Access Capability Revisions. The filing is being made to introduce clarifying language for Common Channel Signaling Access Capability (CCSAC). The language was developed and agreed to in discussions with AT&T. These changes have no customer cost or rate impact but affected customers are being sent an individual letter notifying them of the filing. Qwest is requesting an April 14, 2005 effective date.

2. HOT SPRINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY N2005.3.32 (Leroy)

On March 15, 2005, Hot Springs Telephone filed proposed changes to the Hot Springs Telephone Company Low Income Telephone Assistance Program. These proposed tariffs reflect the changes required by the FCC order and have also been updated to reflect that the HSTC service area is encompassed entirely on the Flathead Indian Reservation, in accordance with the FCC Order.

3. Qwest Communication Corporation N2005.3.28 (Scott)

On March 11, 2005, Qwest Communication Corporation (QCC) filed tariff Transmittal QCC05-02. This filing introduces the QWEST CHOICE Unlimited Plan for Business customers, and is moving the QWEST Long Distance Advantage to the obsolete service offering section.

4. Qwest Communications N2005.3.30 (Scott)

On March 11, 2005, Qwest Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 05-07, Grand father certain business packages and services and introduce new ones. Qwest proposes the following new services: Qwest Choice™ Business, Qwest Choice Business Plus, and Qwest Choice Add-A-Line. This filing also grandfathers the following: Qwest Choice Business and Qwest Choice Two-line Business package, Business CustomChoice™ including the Minute Free Calling Connection Plan, Qwest Business Line Plus™ and Utility Line, Customized Call Management Services, Call Manager Connections, SmartSet and SmartSet Plus, Centrex 21 including the Minute Free Calling Connection Plan, and a portion of Business Line Volume Purchase plan. Included in this filing are minor textual and format changes.

Protective Orders – Notice Items The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Any person interested in seeking a copy of a protective order request should contact the Commission at 406-444-6199.

Protective Orders – Information Items The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

N2005.3.28 - Qwest Communications Corporation - QCC05-02 - Introduce the Qwest Choice Unlimited Plan for Business Customers Grandfather Qwest Long Distance Advantage

N2005.3.30 - Qwest Corporation - TT05-07 - Grandfather Certain Business Packages and Services and Introduce New Ones

N2005.3.31 - Qwest Corporation - TT05-AC01 - Common Channel Signaling Access Capability Revisions

N2005.3.32 - Hot Springs Telephone Company - Changes to the Low Income Telephone Assistance Program Tariff