

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 07-02-06**

Date Published: February 1, 2007  
For Work Week Commencing: February 5, 2007  
Commission Meeting: February 6, 2007, 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.mt.gov>.*

*Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.*

*Live audio feed Unless otherwise noted on this agenda, all Commission meetings held during regular business hours that are noticed on this agenda will be webcast live via the audio feed link on the PSC website (<http://psc.mt.gov/eDocs/#Calendars>). The audio feeds of meetings are also archived at the same website location.*

*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 – No Web Audio Feed)

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

**Public Comments**

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

1. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. D2007.1.13 (Eric)

On January 24, 2004, MDU filed an application for authorization to issue short-term debt securities in an amount up to \$310,000,000 in the form of one or more promissory notes to finance, on an interim basis, the acquisition of

Cascade Natural Gas Corp. Cascade will join Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Great Plains Natural Gas Co. as the Applicant's utility business units. Cascade serves approximately 235,000 customers in 93 communities--65 of which are in Washington and 28 in Oregon. A Default Order has been drafted. Probable motion: Grant MDU's request to issue up \$310,000,000 in the form of one or more promissory notes to finance the Applicant's acquisition of Cascade Natural Gas.

2. Qwest Corporation D2006.3.36 (Gary)

On August 2, 2006, Qwest Corporation filed a Motion to Dismiss Munson Radio from Docket No. D2006.3.36 and to close the docket. Probable Motion: Move to dismiss Munson Radio from, and to close Docket No. D2006.3.36.

3. Qwest N2007.1.7 (Scott)

On January 16, 2007, Qwest Communications Corporation (QCC) filed Tariff Transmittal QCC07-03, Introduction of a one-cent minimum to Qwest Total Advantage (QTA) and Qwest Loyal Advantage (QLA) voice long distance customers. Probable Motion: Approve QCC's Tariff Transmittal QCC07-03 in Docket N2007.1.7.

4. CenturyTel N2007.1.8 (Scott)

On January 13, 2006, CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. filed Transmittal No. 06-12. In this filing CenturyTel is requesting to withdraw the promotion that was approved in Docket N2006.12.185 due to a technical conflict between Call Forwarding and Voice Messaging. CenturyTel is proposing to offer the following promotion: Residential customers who subscribe for a 12 month commitment can receive an access line, 256K DSL with Anti-Virus protection, 100 minutes of long distance calling (\$0.12 per minute over 100 minutes), Voice Messaging, Call Waiting, and 3-Way Calling for a package price of \$48.95. Probable Motion: Approve CenturyTel's Transmittal No. 06-12 in Docket N2007.1.8.

5. Ronan Telephone Company N2007.1.9 (Scott)

On January 9, 2006, Ronan Telephone Company (RTC) filed a proposed tariff for adding a service charge for providing duplicate copies of bills. RTC explains that a recent IRS decision provides for a credit, designed to refund previously collected federal excise taxes on long-distance or bundled

services, for the time period February 28, 2003 through August 1, 2006. Taxpayers may take a standard credit, or as an alternative, they may provide to the IRS the actual amount of excise tax collected on telephone bills for the above period. RTC is anticipating a number of customers can be expected to request reprints for multiple months of bills. This will cause additional costs for RTC. To recoup those additional costs RTC is proposing to charge \$4.00 for each duplicate bill copy. There will be no charge for bills 6 months (or less) old, or for copies of bills needed for billing disputes. Probable Motion: Approve RTC service charge for providing duplicate copies of bills in Docket N2007.1.9.

6. Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana N2007.1.12 (Scott)

On January 23, 2007, Citizens filed Advice Letter No. MT-07-03, Reserve Rotary Telephone Number. The purpose of this filing is to remove Rotary Telephone Number Reservation from the tariff. There are no customers subscribing to this service. Probable Motion: Approve Citizens' Advice Letter No. MT-07-03 in Docket N2007.1.12.

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

1. D2006.10.143 – Ken Toole, et al. – Complaint against Qwest – Discuss and act upon: (1) Motion to Dismiss and (2) Prayer of Complaint asking the PSC to compel Qwest to make a financial showing. (2/6/07)
2. Petition for Writ of Certiorari in New York v. FERC regarding FERC regulation of retail electric transactions – Discuss and consider whether to join the California PUC's amicus brief. (2/6/07)
3. Legislative – Discuss bills relevant to PSC mission, statutory authority, administrative process, and general agency concerns; consider staff analysis and recommendations; provide direction on PSC response to bills. (2/6/07)

**2/7/07 8:30 a.m.**

4. D2006.6.82 – NorthWestern Corporation and BBIL, et al. – Joint Application for the Sale and Transfer of NorthWestern Corporation Pursuant to a Merger Agreement - Discuss and act on the objection of Lee Newspapers, Inc. and motion of Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership and Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership. (2/7/07)

5. Legislative – Discuss bills relevant to PSC mission, statutory authority, administrative process and general agency concerns; consider staff analysis and recommendations, provide direction on PSC response to bills. (2/7/07)
6. **2/5/07, 2/8/07, 2/9/07 8:30 a.m.** – Legislative – Discuss bills relevant to PSC mission, statutory authority, administrative process and general agency concerns; consider staff analysis and recommendations; provide direction on PSC response to bills. (2/5/07, 2/8/07, 2/9/07) (Commission Conference Room - no web audio feed)

### **Other Meetings**

**2/6/07 1:30 p.m. – NorthWestern Energy and Invenergy informational meeting re: Judith Gap wind project after one year+ of operation (Bollinger Room)**

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. Verizon N2007.1.14 (Scott)

On January 24, 2007, Verizon filed revisions to its Verizon Montana Tariff No. 2. The purpose of this filing is to correct the Alternative Rates for Switched/Local Network Connection and Switched/Card/Dedicated [Outbound] and Local Network Connection/Switched [Inbound] for Option EEE (Verizon Business Service I) and Option DDD (Verizon Business Service II). These rates were filed incorrectly in the original filing. In addition, the filing introduces Directory Assistance and a Card per call surcharge for alternative rates for these services. Also included in this filing,

Verizon Business Service is introducing Multi-State Long Distance Service Program III, Multi-State Long Distance Service Program IV, and correcting language under the Multi-State Long Distance Service Program II.

2. CenturyTel D2007.1.15 (Scott)

On January 26, 2007, CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. filed Tariff Transmittal No. 07-02. CenturyTel is adding a monthly rate of \$0.25 per access line for bundled C9-1-1 and bundled monthly rate of \$0.20 per access line for counties with a population of 35, 000 or more, or a population density of 48 people or more per square mile.

**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 wanting 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. Copies of these orders may be obtained by calling the Commission at (406) 444-6199.

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

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

N2007.1.14 – MCI Communications Services, Inc. dba Verizon Business Services – Revisions to Montana Tariff No. 2  
N2007.1.15 – CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. – Tariff Transmittal No. 07-02, Revisions to Tariff P.S. C. MONT. No. 12

D2007.1.16 – NorthWestern Energy – Agreement to Provide Utility Service between Yellowstone Development, LLC and Yellowstone Mountain Club  
D2007.1.17 – Westech Energy Corporation – Request to Transfer Regulated Pipeline Assets from Westech to K.W.B. Pipeline Corp.