

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 08-03-25**

Date Published: March 20, 2008
For Work Week Commencing: March 24, 2008
Commission Meeting: March 25, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the latter 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 webcast 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 and video feed links 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. Qwest Corporation N2008.3.18 (Gary)

On March 7, 2008 Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed for Commission approval a Multi-State Agreement (MSA) between Qwest and Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. (Edward Jones). Qwest is filing the MSA with the Commission for approval pursuant to the Commission's April 16, 2004 Notice of Commission Action (NCA) in Docket N2003.10.149. The MSA is the result of Qwest's response to Edward Jones which was seeking prices for their services and future service needs. The services purchased by Edward Jones are available from other competitive carriers in addition to Qwest.

Probable Motion: Move to approve the MSA between Qwest Corporation and Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. in Docket No. N2008.3.18.

2. Qwest Corporation N2008.3.23 (Gary)

On March 10, 2008 Qwest Corporation (Qwest) filed for Commission approval Multi-State Agreement (MSA) between Qwest and Progressive Casualty Insurance Company (Progressive). Qwest is filing the MSA with the Commission for approval pursuant to the Commission's April 16, 2004 Notice of Commission Action (NCA) in Docket N2003.10.149. The MSA is the result of Qwest's response to Progressive which was seeking prices for their services and future service needs. The services purchased by Edward Jones are available from other competitive carriers in addition to Qwest.

Probable Motion: Move to approve the MSA between Qwest Corporation and Progressive Casualty Insurance Company Docket No. N2008.3.23

3. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY 97.11.219 (Eric)

On March 7, 2008, NWE filed its 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 over collection of 8.40 percent or \$371,477. 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, 2008.

4. Montana-Dakota Utilities D2007.9.107

(Dave)

On March 11, 2008, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) asked for Montana PSC permission to waive Section 2a of its Rate 88 tariff that specifies that the gas tracking adjustment be implemented on a bills rendered basis. MDU is implementing its Automated Meter Reading (ARM) system and some customers may receive bills that are longer or shorter than the normal cycle of approximately 30 days. Starting April 1, 2008, MDU would like to issue bills on a service rendered basis rather than on a bills rendered basis and continue this through June 30, 2008. MDU will issue a tariff change request if they decide to continue this on a permanent basis. Probable motion: Approve as requested.

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

1. **03/24/08 – 11:00 a.m.** – Organization of MISO States (OMS) comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – Discuss comments by OMS on the Midwest ISO's recent filings. 1. Alternative Revenue Sufficiency Guarantee cost allocation methodology. 2. The Ancillary Services Market price with respect to the Independent Market Monitor. (03/24/08)
2. D2008.2.17 – Commission investigation of Qwest's apparent noncompliance with order 5535g (post-retirement benefits other than pensions) – Consider Qwest's request for a two week extension of time within which to provide its written response. (03/25/08)
3. D2007.7.82 – NWE – Application for Approval for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas and Electric Delivery Service Rates – Consider and act on NWE's Motion for Protective Order covering forecasted Montana financial data concerning NWE's expenses for years 2008-2012. (03/25/08)
4. Organization of MISO States (OMS) Comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding expansion of MISO membership to additional market participants (Module F) and additional comments as needed – Discuss Draft OMS comments. (03/25/08)

5. FY 2008 Travel Budget – Reallocate FY 08 travel budget, approve travel for Al Brogan to NARUC attorney conference. (03/25/08)

Other Meetings

Weekly Scheduling, Review of Monthly Calendars, and Docket Status Updates (if requested by a Commissioner).

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.

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

D2008.3.25 – Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc. /Central Montana Communications, Inc. and Alltel Communications, Inc. – Application for Approval of Wireless Interconnection and Reciprocal Compensation Agreement.