

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 08-08-19**

Date Published: August 14, 2008
For Work Week Commencing: August 18, 2008
Commission Meeting: August 19, 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. MDU Resources Group, Inc. DOCKET NO. D2008.7.91 (Eric)

On July 31, 2008, MDU Resources Group, Inc. applied for authority to issue over a two-year period \$1,000,000,000 of long-term financing in the following amounts: (1) the issuance of not to exceed \$1,000,000,000 of the Company's Common Stock; (2) the issuance of not to exceed \$150,000,000 of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or Preferred Stock A; (3) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of the Company's secured debt securities; (4) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of stock purchase contracts and (5) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of hybrid securities such as convertible or unconvertible preferred securities, putable or callable instruments. The proceeds of these issuances will be used for funding the Company's capital requirements, for the refunding of its outstanding obligations, for corporate development including the acquisition of businesses or business assets, and for other general corporate purposes.

Probable Motion: Approve MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s application to issue securities for a two-year period.

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

1. Placeholder - D2008.1.6 – PSC Initiated Investigation of Qwest Corporation Regarding the Justness and Reasonableness of Rates, Schedules and Terms and Conditions of Service – Discuss discovery dispute and temporary suspension of the procedural schedule. (8/19/08)
2. D2008.4.36 – PSC Initiated Investigation of NorthWestern Corporation's Compliance with Order 6505e – Discuss and act on (1) NorthWestern's motion for a protective order regarding portions of the Coal Supply Agreement and (2) NorthWestern's motion for a protective order covering financial projections and financial modeling. (8/19/08)
3. D2008.6.69 – NorthWestern Corporation – Application for Approval of its Interest in Colstrip Unit 4 as an Electricity Supply Resource under Certain Terms and Conditions including Certain Treatment of Net Operation Losses – Consider and act on Montana Consumer Counsel's Motion to Modify Order 6925 to Require Prefiled Rebuttal Testimony. (8/19/08)

4. Placeholder – MISO seeks comments on its draft regional expansion criteria and benefits (RECB) assessment compliance filing that is scheduled to be filed with FERC before the end of August. OMS asks if it should provide MISO comments by the August 20th deadline. (8/19/08)
5. Placeholder – MISO's Ancillary Services Readiness certification. (8/19/08)
6. State of Montana Tribal Relations Report pursuant to Sections 2-15-141 through 2-15-143, MCA – Discuss PSC submission to the 2008 State Tribal Relations Report. (8/19/08)

Other Meetings

11:00 a.m. – NARUC, American Public Power Association, Edison Electric Institute and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association e-Forum “Procedures for Implementing The PURPA Standards EISA 2007” (Staff Conference Room – No web audio feed)

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.

1. MDU Resources Group, Inc. D2008.8.93 (Eric)

On August 8, 2008, MDU applied for authority to issue short-term debt securities in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$330,000,000 in the form of one or more promissory notes to finance, on an interim basis, the acquisition of Intermountain Gas Company. When short-term borrowings exceed 5 percent of a utility's other outstanding securities, Commission approval is required.

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.

Protective Orders – Information Items The Commission has issued the following protective

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2008.8.93 – MDU Resources Group, Inc. – Application for Authority to Issue up to \$330,000,000 of Short-Term Debt Securities

D2008.8.96 – Five Valleys Gas Company – Application for Approval of Propane Gas True-Up for the Period December 31, 2004 through December 31, 2007

D2008.8.97 – Five Valleys Gas Company – Application to Implement Increased Rates in its Seeley Lake, Montana, Service Area