

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 11-03-22**

Date Published: March 17, 2011  
For Work Week Commencing: March 21, 2011  
Commission Meeting: March 22, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction *This agenda is the Commission's 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://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 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. Approval of Commission Minutes (Kate)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of February 28, 2011

2. Circle Z Enterprises TN2497 (Eric D.)

Fred M. Zweifel dba Circle Z Enterprises, Virginia City, Montana requests permission to continue to suspend PSC No. 9270 for the period March 19, 2011 to May 9, 2011. Probable Motion: Approve the continued suspension of PSC No. 9270.

Class B - Passengers within the City of Virginia City and a two mile radius thereof.

3. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY D97.11.219 (Eric)

On March 8, 2011, 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 under collection of 4.26 percent or (\$189,895). An increase in FTA charges 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, 2011. Probable Motion: Approve NWE's requested rate changes for the semi-annual true-up of NWE's Natural Gas Transition Bonds.

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

1. T-10.30.PCN – Aaron Romero d/b/a A & A Moving – Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Discuss and act on final order. (3/22/11)

2. N2011.2.17 – Ronan Telephone Company – Application for Term Protective Order for Forbearance Contracts Re: 69-3-808, MCA – Discuss RTC’s Motion for Term Protective Order. (3/22/11)
3. Executive compensation in utilities’ annual reports – Consider waiving need to file salary schedules pending resolution of district court litigation. (3/22/11)
4. N2011.3.19 – Avista Corporation – Motion for Protective Order – Discuss and act on Avista’s motion for a protective order. (3/22/11)
5. D2009.9.117 – Landmark Water Company – Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges and Establish a Pass-Through Mechanism for Water Service – Cancel tentative hearing date and reschedule hearing. (3/22/11)
6. D2011.1.8 – Mountain Water Company – Consolidated Petition by Mountain Water for Declaratory Rulings and Application for Approval of Sale – Discuss and act on Clark Fork Coalition’s Petition to Intervene. (3/22/11)
7. D2010.4.41 & D2009.9.127 – Mountain Water Company – General Rate Case and 2009 Purchased Power Tracker – Discuss and act on final order. (3/22/11)
8. Out of state staff travel – Obtain approval for Mike Dalton to attend “The Basics” course, New Mexico State Center for Public Utilities, May 8-13, 2011, Albuquerque, NM. (3/22/11)
9. 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. (3/22/11)
10. DDV 2011-79 - MCC v. PSC – Discuss Settlement Proposal. (3/22/11)

### **Other Meetings**

**3/21/11 – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Organization of MISO States training for commissioners & staff (Bollinger Room)**

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. CenturyLink N2011.3.22 (Scott)

On February 21, 2011, CenturyLink filed Advice No. 11-03. The purpose of this filing is to introduce a satisfaction guarantee program for new business customers who request installation of business individual lines, trunks, or Centrex.

2. CenturyLink N2011.3.23 (Scott)

On March 2, 2011, CenturyLink filed Advice No. 11-05. The purpose of this filing is to introduce Simple Choice Unlimited \$10 Bill Credit as a Competitive Response offer.

3. Ronan Telephone Company N2011.3.24 (Scott)

On February 18, 2011, Ronan Telephone Company (RTC) requested revision to its tariffs. In this filing RTC is requesting to add a discount for customers who commit to a long term contract for Digital Primary Rate Interface (DPRI). DPRI provides voice and digital/data service and is specifically designed for large customers.

**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**

N2011.3.21 – PSC Initiated - In the Matter of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking FCC 11-13 Regarding High-Cost Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation Reform  
N2011.3.22 - CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink - Advice No. 11-03 - Introduce a Satisfaction Guarantee Program for New Business Customers who Request Installation of Business individual Lines, Trunks, or Centrex  
N2011.3.23 - CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink - Advice No. 11-05 - Introduce Simple Choice Unlimited \$10 Bill Credit as a Competitive Response  
N2011.3.24 - Ronan Telephone Company - Proposed Revisions to Digital Primary Rate Interface Tariff  
D2011.3.25 - Black Hills Power - Application for Authority to Establish a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider