

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 11-09-29**

Date Published: September 22, 2011
For Work Week Commencing: September 26, 2011
Commission Meeting: September 29, 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 at <http://psc.mt.gov> (go to "Agendas & Meetings" then "Audio/Video Archives"). 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 (Aleisha)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of September 19, 2011

2. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY D97.11.219 (Eric)

On September 14, 2011, NWE filed to reduce its CTC-GP-Credit and its CTC-RA-Credit. These two credit rate schedules pertain to certain rate base credits associated with the gas production and regulatory asset transition costs. The filing the recent change in the authorized cost of capital in Docket No. D2009.9.129, Order No. 7046h. The authorized cost of capital declined from 8.82 percent to 7.92 percent. The decrease in the authorized cost of capital results in a lower levelized rate base reduction. These two rate schedules have also been adjusted to reflect the forecast market for the period that these rates will be in effect. Staff recommends approval of the reductions to the two Credit rate schedules. Probable Motion: Move to approve NWE's application to reduce the CTC-GP-Credit and the CTC-RA-Credit.

3. Jim's Taxi TN2509 (Eric D.)

Linda Elgin as the personal representative of the Estate of James Elgin, requests suspension of PSC No. 9472, James Elgin dba Jim's Taxi, Kalispell, Montana, for six months, September 29, 2011 to March 29, 2012. Probable Motion: Approve the suspension of PSC No. 9472, as requested.

Class B – Passengers between all points and places in Flathead County, Montana. LIMITATION: Transportation in limousine service is prohibited.

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

1. N2011.7.65 – NWE – Proposed revisions to electric line extension tariff to bring it into compliance with § 69-5-122, MCA – Discuss/act on approving tariff on interim basis and issuing notice of opportunity to comment. (9/29/11)

2. Placeholder - D2011.5.41 – NWE – Application for Approval to Purchase and Operate the Spion Kop Wind Project – Discuss possible additional issues in docket. (9/29/11)
3. D2011.7.66 – Havre Pipeline – Application to decrease rates and Charges to its direct rural farmstead customers – Act on Final Order. (9/29/11)
4. D2011.8.68 – PSC Initiated – Petition to set Terms and Conditions for a power purchase and sale agreement for the Flint Creek Hydroelectric LLC project pursuant to 69-3-301 through 69-3-604, MCA – Suspend procedural schedule. (9/29/11)
5. Out-of-state staff travel – Approve Joel Tierney’s travel to Sioux Falls, SD for a joint MT-NE-SD inspection of NorthWestern Energy’s Distribution Integrity Management Program, Dec. 5-9, 2011; and Mike Dalton’s travel to Washington, DC, October 14, 2011, for NARUC training course, “Evaluation, Measurement and Verification for energy efficiency”. (9/29/11)

Other Meetings

9/28/11 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM – NRRI teleseminar, “Utilities and the Increasing Use of Social Media: Challenges, Opportunities, and Regulatory Concerns”
(Commission 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.

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. Copies of these requests may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

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 viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2011.9.81 – Mountain Water Company – Application to Implement a Power Cost Tracking Adjustment

D2011.9.82 – NorthWestern Energy – Complaint of Stephen Forbes vs. NorthWestern