

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 11-10-25**

Date Published: October 20, 2011
For Work Week Commencing: October 24, 2011
Commission Meeting: October 25, 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 web site 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 October 17, 2011

2. BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. (BHP) D2011.9.83 (Eric)

On September 20, 2011, BHP filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on September 28, 2011. Requests for hearing were due by October 25, 2011. No requests have been received. This application will increase revenues by \$87,347 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted. Probable motion: Move to grant BHP's Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application.

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

1. N2011.7.65 – NorthWestern Energy (NWE) – Proposed Electric Utility Line Extension Tariff Reflecting the Utility Line Extension Refund Period Changing from 5 Years to 10 Years for Residential Customers – Consider directing NWE to file revised tariff by December 14, 2011. (10/25/11)
2. D2011.9.78 – Energy West Montana – Application to Make Interim Adjustments Final and to Reconcile the Gas Cost Tracking Mechanism by Decreasing Rates by \$273,574 – Discuss/act on interim order. (10/25/11)
3. N2011.9.75 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) – Revised Optional Residential Thermal Energy Storage Rate 13 – Discuss and act on MDU's request to revise the applicability of the off peak hours for Rate 13. (10/25/11)
4. Samuel David Rankin complaint against Qwest – Consider whether Mr. Rankin's filing constitutes a complaint within the Commission's jurisdiction and, if yes, serve the filing on Qwest and process it as a formal complaint. (10/25/11)
5. T-11.24.RI – Medicab LLC, Missoula, Montana – Rate increase request – Discuss the additional information supplied by the Applicant, Medicab. (10/25/11)

6. Placeholder – T-11.18.RI – Carrie Ann Pintar dba Amazing Taxi – Rate increase request – Consider Amazing Taxi's rate increase request. (10/25/11)
7. Placeholder – PSC Initiated – Motor carrier rulemaking – Consider and act upon proposed changes to motor carrier rules. (10/25/11)
8. D2011.6.54 and D2010.6.62 – NorthWestern Energy – Applications for Approval of Annual Avoided Cost Compliance Filing – Schedule QFLT-1 – (1) Discuss and act on NWE's Motion for Interim Rate Adjustment in Docket No. D2011.6.54, and (2) discuss and act on staff's recommendation to consolidate dockets. (10/25/11)
9. PSC Initiated – Rulemaking – Discuss directing staff to start a rules project on below cost sales in QF contracts. (10/25/11)
10. NARUC – Request for Proposals for Capacity Assistance – Discuss and act on RFP. (10/25/11)
11. Out-of-state staff travel – Obtain approval of Brian Dekiep's travel to Salt Lake City, Nov. 1-2, 2011, for a Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG) joint work group meeting re: FERC Order 1000 compliance, and again to Salt Lake City, Feb. 1-2, 2012, for an NTTG stakeholders meeting and joint work group meeting. (10/25/11)

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.

1. Citizens Telecommunications N2011.10.88 (Scott)

On October 14, 2011, Citizens Telecommunications filed Advice Letter No. MT-11-05. The purpose of this filing is to discontinue Calling Card Service. Customers are being notified in advance via a bill message. Citizens is requesting this filing become effective on November 14, 2011.

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>.

1. NorthWestern Energy D2011.6.53 (Jason)

On October 17, 2011, Invenergy Wind Development Montana, LLC (Invenergy) filed a Motion for a Protective Order to restrict access to certain information to be filed in this docket that it provided to NorthWestern Energy in response to a 2009 Request for Information for Renewable Resources and Community Renewable Energy Projects. Specifically, Invenergy seeks to protect as trade secrets: (1) All cost estimates, price information and liquidated damages arrangements; (2) pro forma financial models; (3) legal and environmental risk analysis that names neighbors, landowners, and potential lawsuits; (4) wind data and energy estimates; (5) capacity factor information; (6) detailed equipment specification information; (7) information regarding conditions precedent to be satisfied prior to final contract execution; (8) financing and security arrangements or requirements; (9) third party submittals, such as price proposals from turbine manufacturers and balance of plant contractors, as well as cost of capital; and (10) landowner lease, easement and study agreements.

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

D2011.9.86 – CenturyLink QC and Gazelle Link, LLC-CLEC – Application for Approval of Adoption of the Wireline Interconnection Agreement between Sprint Communications Company L.P. and Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC

D2011.10.87 – PSC Initiated – In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Tariff Schedule No. QF-1, Revised Sheet No. 74

N2011.10.88 – Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana dba Frontier Communications of Montana – Advice Letter No. MT-11-05, Discontinue Calling Card Service

D2011.10.89 – PSC Initiated – In the Matter of Telephone Number Conservation