

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 12-04-24**

Date Published: April 19, 2012  
For Work Week Commencing: April 23, 2012  
Commission Meeting: April 24, 2012, 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 web site 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 April 16, 2012

2. BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. (BHP) D2012.3.30 (Eric)

On March 21, 2012, BHP filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on March 22, 2012. Requests for hearing were due by April 20, 2012. No requests have been received. This application will increase revenues by \$84,907 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted. Probable motion: 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. D2012.3.31 – Black Hills Power, Inc. – Petition for Certification of the Silver Sage Wind Farm as an Eligible Renewable Resource – Discuss/act on Black Hills Power's petition. (4/24/12)

### **Other Meetings**

**4/23/12 – 1:30-4:00 p.m. – Roundtable in N2012.3.26 – Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Reform Order (Bollinger Room)**

**4/26/12 – 12:30-2:00 p.m. – NRRI teleseminar, "Natural Gas Pipeline Safety: How to Address Cost-Effectiveness and Ratemaking Concerns While Ensuring Public Safety" (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.

1. CenturyLink QC N2012.4.43 (Scott)

On April 12, 2012, CenturyLink QC filed Tariff Transmittal 12-01. This filing eliminates non-Tribal Link Up support and makes changes to Tribal Link Up support as ordered by the FCC. A subsequent compliance filing will be submitted at a later date to address future changes to the Lifeline discount and eligibility criterion.

2. CenturyLink N2012.4.44 (Scott)

On April 12, 2012, CenturyLink filed Tariff Transmittal 12-02. This filing eliminates non-Tribal Link Up support and makes changes to Tribal Link Up support as ordered by the FCC. A subsequent compliance filing will be submitted at a later date to address future changes to the Lifeline discount and eligibility criterion.

**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 N2011.12.96 (Jason)

On August 13, 2012, NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) filed a Motion for a Protective Order to govern access to certain information to be filed in this docket. Specifically, NorthWestern seeks to protect its "business strategy for future market purchases," including information that "details specific percentages of forecasted electric supply that will be purchased by NorthWestern and the timelines on which the purchases are to occur," as well as "'hard targets,' which are trigger points at which NorthWestern proposes to purchase supply in corresponding percentages for future delivery."

**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**

N2012.4.42 – PSC Initiated – FCC Ordered July 1, 2012 Transition of Intrastate Access Charges

N2012.4.43 – CenturyLink QC – Tariff Transmittal 12-01 Exchange and Network Service Tariffs

N2012.4.44 – CenturyLink – Tariff Transmittal 12-02 – FCC's Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization