

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 12-05-24**

Date Published: May 17, 2012
For Work Week Commencing: May 21, 2012
Commission Meeting: May 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 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 May 14, 2012

2. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY Docket N2012.5.50 (Kate)

On May 8, 2012, NorthWestern Energy filed a proposed electric line extension tariff in accordance with the discussion at the Commission's April 17, 2012 work session concerning a draft line extension rule. The proposed tariff reinstates the electric line extension tariff that was in effect prior to Final Order 7046h in Docket D2009.9.129 (NWE's most recent general rate case), except for statutorily required changes regarding line extension advances and some minor clarifying revisions. NWE requests the tariff, if approved, become effective 14 calendar days after approval, because implementation will require business process changes by NWE. Probable Motion: Move to approve the proposed electric line extension tariff and the requested effective date.

3. Sidney Shuttle LLC T-12.7.PCNT (Nickie)

On May 14, 2012 Sidney Shuttle LLC, Sidney, Montana filed an application for temporary operating authority authorizing the following:

Class B – Passengers in rate regulated service between all points and places in Richland and Dawson County, Montana.
LIMITATION: Transportation movements must originate or terminate in Richland County, Montana.

The application for temporary authority was accompanied by the required fee, affidavits of support and a request for permanent operating authority, as required by 69-12-207. If approved the grant of authority would be for 30 days and an extension of an additional 90 days may be granted. Closest rate regulated passenger carrier is Miles City, Montana and is limited to a 50 mile radius of Miles City. Probable Motion: Approve the issuance of temporary authority to Sidney Shuttle LLC.

4. Floaters Shuttle LLC TN2538 (Nickie)

Floaters Shuttle LLC, Bozeman, Montana requests permission to lease PSC No. 9463 to Paul LeGros d/b/a Madison River Shuttle, Belgrade, Montana for a two month period, May 17, 2012 to July 17, 2012. Probable Motion: Approve the lease of PSC No. 9463.

Class B – Passengers between the Fish Wildlife and Parks access site located at Black’s Ford and Bureau of Land Management use area, Warm Springs, on MT Route 84.

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

1. D2012.5.47 – NorthWestern Energy/Townsend Propane – Application for propane supply cost account balance amortization and rate adjustment – Approve Interim Order. (5/24/12)
2. D2012.1.3 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for approval of avoided cost tariff for new qualifying facilities – Discuss and act on Notice of Commission Action reinstating the procedural schedule, changing deadlines and hearing dates. (5/24/12)
3. D2012.3.25 – NorthWestern Energy – Application to Place the Battle Creek Natural Gas Production Resources in Rate Base and to Recover Associated Expenses – Discuss and act on Motions for Special Limited Intervention and for Protective Order filed by Helis Oil & Gas Co. and Energy Consultants, LLC to protect portions of their contracts with NWE. (5/24/12)
4. D2011.6.53 – NorthWestern Energy – Petition for a Waiver from Full Compliance with CREP Purchase Obligation – Discuss and act on NWE’s petition. (5/24/12)

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. Project Telephone Company N2012.5.51 (Mike)

Project Telephone Company has filed for approval with this Commission Tariff Revisions applicable to the Lifeline Assistance Program for Project Telephone Company.

2. Project Telephone Company N2012.5.52 (Mike)

Project Telephone Company has filed for approval with this Commission a Formal Request to Withdraw from the Telephone Low Income Assistance Program, pursuant to M.C.A. §69-3-1007.

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. Southern Montana Telephone Company N2012.4.42 (Dennis)

On May 18, 2012, Southern Montana Telephone Company (Southern) will be filing a Motion for Protective Order to govern access to confidential network configuration information. Specifically, Southern will be requesting protection of the minutes of use information with detail supported by CABS bills from data at an exchange level and by rate element.

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>

1. Energy West Incorporated D2012.3.20 (Justin)

On May 8, 2012, the Commission granted Energy West Incorporated (EWI's) Motion for Protective Order. The Commission granted protection for the

balance sheets, income statements, and various sensitive financial data for the Bangor Gas Company (BGC). The Maine Public Utility Commission has previously granted a Protective Order for this information, determining that BGC is operating in a competitive market and release of this information could adversely impact BGC's position in the marketplace.

2. NorthWestern Corporation N2011.12.96 (Jason)

On May 16, 2012, the Commission issued Order 7208 granting in part and denying in part NorthWestern Energy's Motion for Protective Order for its "business strategy for future market purchases," including information that "details specific percentages of forecasted electric supply that will be purchased by NWE and the timelines on which the purchases are to occur," as well as "'hard targets,' which are trigger points at which NWE proposes to purchase supply in corresponding percentages for future delivery."

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

N2012.5.51 - Project Telephone Company Inc. - Tariff Revisions Applicable to the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program

N2012.5.52 - Project Telephone Company Inc. - Formal request to withdraw from the Telephone Low-Income Assistance Program