

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 12-08-28**

Date Published: August 23, 2012  
For Work Week Commencing: August 27, 2012  
Commission Meeting: August 28, 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 (Judy)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of August 20, 2012

2. MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. N2012.8.83 (Elizabeth)

On August 6, 2012, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application with the Commission for a new tariff sheet to change the thermal heating zone boundaries. This will change heating zone 18 because WBI has informed MDU that a new heating zone has been added to their system. This new zone will be designated Zone 191. Staff recommends approval.

Probable Motion: Approve MDU's request for a new thermal heating zone designated as Zone 191.

3. CenturyLink QC N2012.8.86 (Scott)

On August 15, 2012, CenturyLink QC filed a petition to abandon its NextConnects Call Management Feature also known as Call Queuing. The reason for this request for withdrawal is that CenturyLink is faced with technical limitations due to the recent replacement of Advanced Intelligence Network (AIN) platforms that were not equipped to provide the feature functionality that is required to continue offering NextConnects. CenturyLink has provided the information as required by Montana §69-3-810 and Montana Administrative Rule 38.5.2760. Probable Motion: Approve CenturyLink QC's request in N2012.8.86.

4. Circle Z Enterprises TN2549 (Nickie)

Fred M. Zweifel dba Circle Z Enterprises, Virginia City, Montana, requests permission to suspend PSC No. 9270 for a six month period, September 16, 2012, to March 16, 2013. Probable Motion: Approve the suspension of PSC No. 9270.

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

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

1. D2012.7.78 – Havre Pipeline Company – Application for Cost Tracker Decrease for Farmstead Service – Discuss/act on interim order. (8/28/12)
2. Placeholder – D2012.3.20 – Energy West, Incorporated – Application for Limited Waiver of Certain Ring-Fencing Requirements in Order 6960a and for Authorization to Engage in Financing Transactions – Discuss/act on Motion for Reconsideration. (8/28/12)
3. D2008.8.95 – NorthWestern Energy (NWE) – Application for Approval to Construct and Operate the Dave Gates Generating Station (formerly Mill Creek Generating Station) to Supply Regulation Service for NorthWestern Energy’s Montana Electric Operations and Montana Transmission Control Area – Discuss and act on NWE’s request to clarify whether its Carbon Offset Plan is to be a one-time-only expenditure or an ongoing annual program. (8/28/12)

### **Other Meetings**

**8/27/12 – Noon - 1:30 p.m. – NRRI teleseminar, “Electric Service Outages and Undergrounding: Issues and Challenges” (Commission Conference Room – no web audio feed)**

**8/30/12 – 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – PSC informational meeting re: Path8/Colstrip electricity transmission upgrades and the potential impacts on regulation service (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.

**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 website 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 website at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D2012.8.87 – Complaint of Syris Trahan v. NorthWestern Energy

N2012.8.88 – Big Sky Gas LLC – Application for Natural Gas Supplier License in the State of Montana