

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 12-09-11**

Date Published: September 6, 2012
For Work Week Commencing: September 10, 2012
Commission Meeting: September 11, 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 September 3, 2012,

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

1. D2012.9.92 – Larry Schuster vs. NorthWestern Energy – Consider whether to require NWE to answer customer complaint regarding winter termination. (9/11/12)
2. FY 2014 and 2015 budget reduction – Discuss agency response to 17-7-111(3) (f) MCA which requires agencies to identify how they will operate at 95% of their base budget for each year of the next biennium. (9/11/12)

Other Meetings

9/11/12 – 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Ronan Telephone Co. – Information meeting – (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.

1. MDU Resources Group, Inc. D2012.8.90 (Eric)

On August 23, 2010, MDU Resources Group, Inc. applied for authority to issue over a two-year period \$1,000,000,000 of long-term financing in the

following amounts: (1) the issuance of not to exceed \$1,000,000,000 of the Company's Common Stock; (2) the issuance of not to exceed \$150,000,000 of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or Preferred Stock A; (3) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of the Company's New Senior Notes, Other Secured Debt Securities, Unsecured Debt Securities, and/or guaranties issued from time to time; (4) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of stock purchase contracts and (5) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of hybrid securities such as convertible or unconvertible preferred securities, put able or callable instruments. The proceeds of these issuances will be used for funding the Company's capital requirements, for the refunding of its outstanding obligations, for corporate development including the acquisition of businesses or business assets and for other general corporate purposes.

2. Mountain Water Co. D2009.12.154 (Leroy)

On September 4, 2012, Mountain Water Co. (MWC) submitted its annual tracking adjustment pursuant to the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund recovery tracker approved by the Commission in Order No. 7059 in Docket D2009.12.154. Because of the small size of this year's total tracking adjustment (a decrease of \$3,394), MWC requests that the Commission allow MWC to deviate from the tariffed tracking adjustment procedure and instead defer the rate change and reflect the change in loan costs in the 2013 annual tracker filing.

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. CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink D2010.5.5 (Justin)

On August 2, 2012, CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, filed a Motion for Protective Order to govern access to information contained in the annual Synergy Report, filed with the Commission pursuant to Order No. 7096e, Condition 4h. Specifically, CenturyLink is requesting protection of the financial information reflecting estimated synergies from the merger of CenturyLink and Qwest for the 12-month period from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

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

D2012.8.90 - MDU Resources Group Inc. - Application for Authorization to Issue Securities

D2012.9.91 - Qwest Corporation - Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC and New Horizons Communications Corporation - Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement

D2012.9.92 - NorthWestern Energy - Complaint of Larry G Schuster v. NorthWestern Energy

D2012.9.93 - Mountain Water Company - Complaint of Mountain Water Company v. Edward Janecek III, Milo R Janecek and Jean Janecek