

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 12-11-15**

Date Published: November 8, 2012
For Work Week Commencing: November 12, 2012
Commission Meeting: November 15, 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 November 5, 2012

2. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. D2012.10.112 (Eric)

On October 29, 2012, MDU Resources Group, Inc. applied for authority to issue over a two-year period ending December 31, 2014, \$150,000,000 of short-term financing in the form of unsecured promissory notes and/or commercial paper. 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 purposes, and for other general corporate purposes. **Probable Motion:** Grant MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s application to issue up to \$150,000,000 of short-term financing.

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

1. D2011.6.45 – NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) – Application for Propane Supply Cost Account Balance and Rate Adjustment for Townsend Propane Supply – Consider NorthWestern's updated analysis of the feasibility of extending its natural gas distribution system to customers in Townsend, Montana, and act on recommendations from NorthWestern and Montana Consumer Counsel that further analysis is not necessary because extension of the system is not economical at this time. (11/15/12)
2. 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 draft final order. (11/15/12)
3. Potential PSC legislation – Consider/approve draft bill to amend Section 76-3-622, MCA, to address subdivision developments that include small water and/or wastewater utility systems. (11/15/12)

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.

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>.

1. Mountain Water Company D2012.7.81 (Justin)

On October 30, 2012, Mountain Water Company (Mountain Water) filed a Motion for Protective Order to protect from disclosure Montana and federal income tax returns of Mountain Water and Park Water Company (Park Water) and compensation paid to the individual employees of Mountain Water and Park Water.

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>.

1. CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink (CenturyLink) D2010.5.55 (Justin)

On November 5, 2012, the Commission granted CenturyLink's motion for protective order. The Commission granted protection to Century Link's 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.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

1. Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (Qwest) Multi-State and Individual Case Basis Agreements

Any qualified person who signs a non-disclosure agreement pursuant to the term protective Order No. 6999 in Docket No. D2009.5.60 may review the following agreements at the Commission's offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT 59601, or at Qwest's office, 441 North Park Avenue, Helena, MT 59601. If any interested party has reason to believe that Qwest's prices are below relevant costs in the agreements, the interested party may file an objection with the Commission within 30 days of the date of this notice (please see Qwest Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR) Docket No. D2008.1.6, Order No. 6889n, Joint Stipulation).

- 1.) Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC/Tetra Tech Inc. – Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (Qwest) and Tetra Tech Inc. have signed a Multi-State Agreement (MSA) for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Tetra Tech Inc.
- 2.) Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC/Pape Group – Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink QC (Qwest) and Pape Group have signed a Multi-State Agreement (MSA) for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Pape Group.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2012.11.114 – NorthWestern Energy – Petition for Authority to Issue Securities
N2012.11.115 – Central Montana Communications, Inc. – Tariff Modification – Local Network Access Line Service and Supplementary Service