

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 12-11-27**

Date Published: November 21, 2012

For Work Week Commencing: November 26, 2012

Commission Meeting: November 27, 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 website 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 19, 2012

2. NorthWestern Corporation (NOR) D2012.11.114 (Eric)

On November 7, 2012, NOR filed an application seeking authority to issue over a two-year period through and including December 31, 2012, some or all of the following kinds of securities not to exceed in the aggregate \$850 million. The specific types of issuances are: (1) Equity securities of Applicant not to exceed \$250 million, including without limitation, common stock, preferred stock, convertible or unconvertible preferred securities and hybrid securities issuable directly or indirectly by Applicant; (2) Secured debt securities of Applicant, not to exceed \$250 million, including, without limitation: (i) One or more series of First Mortgage Bonds to be issued under Applicant's Montana mortgage; (ii) One or more series of First Mortgage Bonds to be issued under Applicant's South Dakota mortgage; (iii) Other secured debt securities; (3) Unsecured debt securities of Applicant, not to exceed \$350 million, including without limitation, subordinated or unsubordinated unsecured debentures, debt securities, notes, commercial paper or other evidences of unsecured indebtedness. The Applicant will use the proceeds to support state-regulated public utility assets, the refunding or repayment of its outstanding obligations and other general corporate purposes. Probable Motion: Grant NorthWestern Corporation's application to issue various securities over a two-year period through December 31, 2014, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$850 million.

3. Willson LLC T-12.17.RB (Nickie)

On October 25, 2012, the rate change application filed by Willson LLC dba City Cab, Billings, Montana, was noticed to the public. This docket involves rate decreases of between 2.13% and 38.17% and rate increases of between 0% and 125.93%. The rate increases affect passenger transportation under PSC No. 7489. Last date for protest was November 14, 2012, and no protests were filed. Rates are scheduled to become effective on November 30, 2012. Probable Motion: Approve the rate changes noticed in Docket T-12.17.RB.

SUB A Class B – Passengers and their baggage between all points and places within Yellowstone, Treasure, Stillwater, Carbon and Big Horn Counties. Limitations: (1) Transportation of

Burlington Northern Railroad Co. work crews is prohibited. (2)  
 Transportation is limited to the use of motor vehicles with a  
 passenger rated capacity of seven (7) or less.

4. Floater Shuttle Service LLC T-12.8.ST (Nickie)

Floater Shuttle Service LLC, Bozeman, Montana, as the owner/transferor of PSC No. 9463 asks that the authority be suspended for the period November 13, 2012, to May 13, 2013. The transferee, Paul Legros has co-signed this request for suspension. This is a seasonal service, and the owner expects that the transfer of this authority will be completed prior to seasonal operations beginning next spring. Probable Motion: Approve the suspension 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. Energy Imbalance Markets – Discuss current work in Energy Imbalance Markets, including draft National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) study. (11/27/12)

**Other Meetings**

**11/27/12 – 12-1:30 PM – NRRI teleseminar, “Is The Time Ripe For State Utility Commissions and Utilities To Revisit Long-Term Gas Contracting?” (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. Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) N2012.11.117 (Scott)

On November 9, 2012, MDU filed an application requesting authorization to continue to accumulate the under and over collections of MPSC and MCC taxes. MDU is requesting Commission approval to defer implementation and accrue for later collection the change in the PSC and MCC tax rate to correspond with the next filing of a general rate application or as proposed in part through the pending natural gas rate application in Docket D2012.9.100.

2. Central Montana Communications, Inc. N2012.11.115 (Scott)

On October 29, 2012, Central Montana Communications requested modifications to its Reduce trunk hunt charges, consolidate several of the non-recurring charges, add the bundle upgrade pricing for Excede services, reduce the charge for additional listing for business, and reduce the charge for non-listed numbers.

3. Ronan Telephone Company N2012.11.119 (Scott)

On November 20, 2012, Ronan Telephone Company (RTC) filed proposed amendments to Section 6.1 Access Service Tariff. The revised Tariff re-inserts a clause that was inadvertently omitted. The revised clause is "and to terminate calls from customer's premises or from the point of interface designated by RTC with a customer or carrier to an end user's premises." Since CenturyLink (formerly Mountain Bell) is no longer the default intra-LATA carrier, the language is also being updated to omit any specific reference to CenturyLink.

4. Ronan Telephone Company N2012.11.120 (Scott)

On November 20, 2012, Ronan Telephone Company (RTC) filed proposed amendments to its Lifeline Tariffs. These changes are being made to update the Montana tariffs in conformance with the FCC's 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, *In the Matter of Lifeline and Linkup Reform and Modernization*, FCC Order 12-11, WC Docket 11-42, et al., Released February 6, 2012.

5. Hot Springs Telephone Company N2012.11.121 (Scott)

On November 20, 2012, Hot Springs Telephone Company (HSTC) filed proposed amendments to its Lifeline Tariffs. These changes are being made to update the Montana tariffs in conformance with the FCC's 2012 Lifeline Reform Order, *In the Matter of Lifeline and Linkup Reform and Modernization*, FCC Order 12-11, WC Docket 11-42, et al., Released February 6, 2012.

**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>.

**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**

D2012.11.118 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Application for Approval of Modifications to its Existing Conservation Portfolio for Program Year 2013

N2012.11.119 – Ronan Telephone Company – Proposed Amendments to Access Service Tariff, Section 6.1

N2012.11.120 – Ronan Telephone Company – Proposed Amendments to Lifeline Tariffs

N2012.11.121 – Hot Springs Telephone Company – Proposed Amendments to Lifeline Tariffs