

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 12-12-20**

Date Published: December 13, 2012

For Work Week Commencing: December 17, 2012

Commission Meeting: December 20, 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 December 10, 2012

2. Mineral Community Hospital TN2554 (Nickie)

Missoula Community Health Services, Inc. dba Mineral Community Hospital, Superior, Montana, requests cancellation of PSC No. 9408. They are a non-profit recognized by the IRS and therefore exempt from our regulation under 69-12-102(k). Probable Motion: Cancel PSC 9408 as requested.

Class B - Passengers between all points and places in Mineral and Missoula Counties, Montana. LIMITATIONS:
Transportation of passengers in limousine service is prohibited.

3. G & G Garbage, Inc. TN2555 (Nickie)

James A. Jones dba Oilfield Maintenance Company, Gillette, Wyoming, requests permission to continue the lease of PSC No. 9297 to G & G Garbage, Inc., Baker, Montana. Term of the lease will be December 28, 2012, to December 28, 2013. Probable Motion: Approve the continuation of the lease of PSC No. 9297.

Class D - Garbage, solid waste, debris between all points and places in Fallon, Carter and Wibaux County

4. Out of state staff travel (Kate/Dennis)

Staff requests approval of (1) Brian DeKiep's travel to Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG) FERC Order 1000 Interregional Stakeholders Meeting, January 16-17, 2013, Portland OR, and NTTG semi-annual stakeholders meeting, February 7, 2013, Salt Lake City; and (2) Tina Shorten's travel to the NARUC Winter Meeting, February 3-5, 2013, Washington, DC. Probable motion: Move to approve the requested travel.

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

1. D2012.5.47 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Propane Supply Cost Account Balance and Rate Adjustment for Townsend Propane Supply – Discuss/act on draft final order. (12/20/12)
2. D2004.1.6 – Triangle Communication System, Inc. (TCS) – Petition for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation – Discuss request to suspend the 98% coverage requirement in the TCS redefined study areas and associated ETC reporting requirements. (12/20/12)
3. D2004.1.7 – Sagebrush Cellular, Inc. – Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier – Discuss request to suspend the 98% coverage requirement in the Project Telephone Service Area because of loss of Competitive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (CETC) Funding as ordered in the November 11, 2011, FCC Transformation Order. (12/20/12)
4. D2012.11.123 – NorthWestern Energy – Petition for Certification of an Eligible Renewable Resource – Discuss and act on NorthWestern Energy’s petition to certify the Lower South Fork Hydroelectric Project as an eligible renewable resource. (12/20/12)
5. D2012.9.94 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas Delivery Service Rates and Allocated Cost of Service and Rate Design – Discuss/act on NorthWestern Energy’s motion for protective order. (12/20/12)
6. Montana linemen contribution to the Hurricane Sandy Relief effort – To thank, recognize and acknowledge the contribution of Montana electrical linemen and the companies that participated in the relief efforts to restore power on the east coast in the aftermath of super-storm Sandy, and to hear and see their account of their participation in the relief effort. (12/20/12)

Other Meetings

12/19/12 – 12:00-1:30 p.m. – NRRI teleseminar, “Getting Standby Rates Right” (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. Central Montana Communications N2012.12.128 (Scott)

On December 10, 2012, Central Montana Communications (CMC) requested to modify its tariffs. The description of Toll Restriction was moved, text of the service was changed to simplify the explanation, and the monthly recurring charge for business with Toll Restriction was deleted to match residential.

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>.

1. Mountain Water Company (MWC) D2012.7.81 (Justin)

On December 11, 2012, the Commission granted in part and denied in part Mountain Water Company's motion for protective order. The Commission granted protection for MWC and Park Water (Park) income tax return information. The Commission granted protection for MWC employee compensation pending the outcome of District Court proceedings. The Commission granted protection for Park employee compensation except those employees with a compensation in excess of \$85,000 that are currently supplied to the California Public Utility Commission and available to the public.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2012.12.124 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Approval of Automatic Rate Adjustment and Tracking for Taxes and Fees

N2012.12.126 – PSC Initiated – In the Matter of Proposed Rules Regarding Simplified Regulatory Options for Small Water/Wastewater Utilities

N2012.12.127 – CenturyLink – Request for Waiver of the Months to Exhaust/Utilization Threshold Requirement – Bozeman Rate Center

N2012.12.128 – Central Montana Communications, Inc. – Tariff Modifications – Local Network Access Line Service and Supplementary Service – Non-recurring Charges and Calling Restriction Arrangements