

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 13-10-01**

Date Published: September 26, 2013
For Work Week Commencing: September 30, 2013
Commission Meeting: October 1, 2013, 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 September 23, 2013

2. NorthWestern Energy D2013.6.42 (Mike)

On September 13, 2013, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) requested approval to adjust its BPA Residential Exchange Program Credit (BPA Credit) to reflect an increase in NWE's Residential Exchange Program Settlement Benefits (REP Benefits) for BPA fiscal year 2014. At the time of its May 2013 filing, the REP Benefit amount NWE would receive for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 had not yet been determined by BPA. The REP Benefits schedule for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 is now available and included as Attachment A in the filing. NWE will receive \$5,063,431 under the REP Benefits schedule for fiscal year 2014. The proposed rate adjustments are designed to credit fiscal year 2014 REP Benefits, the under-refunded balance as of August 31, 2013, and associated PSC and Montana Consumer Counsel fees, for a total amount of \$5,192,659 to be credited to ratepayers over 12 months. This filing established BPA credit rates per kWh by customer class as shown in the following table:

<u>Rate Classes</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Residential	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Residential Employee	\$ (0.000712)	\$ (0.001243)	\$ (0.000531)
General Service Secondary	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Irrigation	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)
Lighting	\$ (0.001187)	\$ (0.002072)	\$ (0.000885)

NWE has requested the credit adjustment take effect October 1, 2013. As a result of the increase in the credit, the decrease on the bill for a typical residential customer using 750 kWh per month will be \$0.66 per month or \$7.92 per year. The actual amount will depend on each customer's type and usage. **Probable Motion:** Move to approve the proposed adjustment to the BPA Residential Exchange Program credit as filed by NorthWestern Energy in Docket No. D2013.6.42.

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

1. D2011.1.5 and D2012.1.2 – Cut Bank Gas Company – Applications for Annual True-Up and to Finalize Gas Costs for 2011 and 2012 – Discuss/act on draft final order. (10/1/13)
2. QF rulemaking to amend ARM 38.5.1902 (MAR Notice 38-5-218) and PSC's economic impact statement (EIS) on the proposed rule – Discuss/act or provide direction to staff regarding: (1) whether to adopt the QF rule amendment as noticed; (2) ETIC's objection to the rulemaking notice pursuant to Section 2-4-305(9), MCA; (3) ETIC's response to EIS at 9/13/13 ETIC meeting; and (4) any other matters related to the QF rule notice and/or the EIS. (10/1/13)

Other Meetings

10/2/13 1-5 p.m. – Tollhouse Energy/Gibson Dam tour (west of Augusta – 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.

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.

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 (Qwest) and Natural Resources Defense Council have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Natural Resources Defense Council.
- 2.) Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink (Qwest) and Hobby Lobby Store have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Hobby Lobby Store.
- 3.) Qwest Corporation dba CenturyLink (Qwest) and CC Services, Inc. have signed an Amendment to their Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to CC Services, Inc.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2013.9.67 – Black Hills Power, Inc. – Application for Authority to Establish a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider

D2013.9.68 – Mountain Water Company – Application for Power Cost Tracking Adjustment

D2013.9.69 – Opheim High Plains Energy, LLC – Petition for Certification of an Eligible Renewable Resource and Community Renewable Energy Project, or in the Alternative, Petition for Declaratory Ruling

D2013.9.70 – Butte Pipe Line Company – Notice of Acceptance of Common Carrier Provisions of Chapter 13 Title 69 of the Montana Code and Application for Recognition as a Common Carrier