

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 14-04-22**

Date Published: April 17, 2014
For Work Week Commencing: April 21, 2014
Commission Meeting: April 22, 2014, 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, 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 electronic notice 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 April 14, 2014

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

1. D2014.3.30 – NorthWestern Energy – 2014 Natural Gas USB Tracker Filing – Discuss/act on draft interim order. (4/22/14)

Other Meetings

4/21/14 – 5:00 p.m. – Public Meeting – D2013.12.85 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Hydro Assets Purchase – Hardin (no web audio feed)

4/22/14 – 1:30 p.m. – D2013.9.71 – Shoshone Condominium Hotel Owners Association v. Abaco Energy Services, LLC - Oral Argument - (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. D2014.4.34 Lincoln Telephone Company (Mike)
Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates

On April 1, 2014, Lincoln Telephone Company (Lincoln) filed a Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates pursuant to 69-3-901 *et. seq* Montana Code Annotated. Lincoln stated the proposed increase is

necessitated by the Federal Communications Commission recent actions in setting 2014 benchmark local rates. Lincoln's proposal would set the residential rate, the residential measured rate, the business rate, and the business measured rate to \$20.50 per month for local calls effective June 1, 2014. The proposed increase will affect 684 residential subscribers and 165 business subscribers of Lincoln.

Any subscriber affected by the proposed rate increase or decrease may petition the Commission to review and determine the rates within 60 days, pursuant to MCA 69-3-906. Affected subscribers or interested parties may review the filing or obtain more information on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov>, or by contacting Commission staff at (406) 444-6185.

2. D2014.4.35 Southern Montana Telephone Company (Mike)
Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates

On April 1, 2014, Southern Montana Telephone Company (SMTC) filed a Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates pursuant to 69-3-901 *et. seq* Montana Code Annotated. SMTC stated the proposed increase is necessitated by the Federal Communications Commission recent actions in setting 2014 benchmark local rates. SMTC's proposal would set the local residential service rate and the local business service rate to \$20.50 per month for local calls effective June 1, 2014. The proposed increase will affect 706 residential subscribers and 198 business subscribers of SMTC.

Any subscriber affected by the proposed rate increase or decrease may petition the Commission to review and determine the rates within 60 days, pursuant to MCA 69-3-906. Affected subscribers or interested parties may review the filing or obtain more information on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov>, or by contacting Commission staff at (406) 444-6185.

3. D2014.4.36 Central MT Communications/Triangle Communications (Mike)
Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates

On April 1, 2014, Central Montana Communications (Triangle Communications) filed a Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates pursuant to 69-3-901 *et. seq* Montana Code Annotated. Triangle Communications stated the proposed increase is necessitated by the Federal Communications Commission recent actions in setting 2014 benchmark local rates. Triangle Communications' proposal would increase the rates for residential local access service and residential bundled service by \$6.00 per month, effective June 1, 2014. The proposed increase will affect 4,559 residential subscribers of Triangle Communications.

Any subscriber affected by the proposed rate increase or decrease may petition the Commission to review and determine the rates within 60 days, pursuant to MCA 69-3-906. Affected subscribers or interested parties may review the filing or obtain more information on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov>, or by contacting Commission staff at (406) 444-6185.

Protective Orders – Notice Items The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. 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>

1. NorthWestern Energy D2013.12.85 (Jeremiah)

On April 9, 2014, the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) granted in part and denied in part a protective order in response to a motion filed by NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern) on February 18, 2014. This motion sought to protect projected information about PPL EnergyPlus' existing wholesale and retail marketing contracts, as well as PPL Montana's forecasts of uncontracted generation through 2019. The Commission granted NorthWestern's motion except for the information from the period of late 2013 to present and the information already protected in Protective Order 7323c.

New Filings Received in Past Week

N2014.4.38 – PSC Investigation/Inquiry - In the Matter of the Request of the Staff of the Montana Public Service Commission for CenturyLink Service Quality Information
D2014.4.39 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Conservation Program Tracking Mechanism Rate 90