

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, the following members were present:

Bob Rowe, Chairman
Thomas J. Schneider, Vice Chairman (via telephone)
Matt Brainard, Commissioner (via telephone)
Greg Jergeson, Commissioner
Jay Stovall, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck
Transportation Division

(164) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of April 25, 2004. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division
Monica Tranel, Legal Division

(165) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest request for a new block of numbers for Benefis in Great Falls - Docket No. D2004.4.58:

Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a notice to summarize the issue and the standards and to request any comments within 20 days. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Monica Tranel
Legal Division

(166) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Interconnection Agreements and Amendments for Qwest, Triangle, Gold Creek Cellular (Verizon), and Citizens - Docket Nos. D2002.11.148, D2001.9.125, D2004.1.13, D2004.3.42, D2003.2.18, D2004.3.32, D2004.2.19, D2003.10.155, D2003.5.64 and D2003.10.147:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the interconnection agreements in D2002.11.148, D2001.9.125, D2004.1.13, D2004.3.42, D2003.2.18, D2004.3.32, D2004.2.19, D2003.10.155, D2003.5.64 and D2003.10.147 and adopt staff recommendations for any conditions and to defer Dockets D2004.2.25 and D2004.2.26. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

(167) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest Interconnection Agreements - Docket Nos. D2004.4.60, D2004.3.42, D2004.3.41 and D2004.2.28:

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the interconnection agreements in Dockets D2004.4.60, D2004.3.42, D2004.3.41 and D2004.2.28. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

(168) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Hot Springs and Ronan Motions for Reconsideration - Docket No. D2004.3.39:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to deny the Ronan and Hot Springs motions for reconsideration as Docket No. D2004.3.35 is closed. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. Commissioner Schneider abstained.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator
Utility Division

(169) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest - possible multi-state collaboration on Qwest performance assurance plan (QPAP) audit:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to authorize staff to explore the possibility of a multi-state collaboration on the QPAP. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Marla Larson
Utility Division

(170) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of MISO's Transmission Energy Market Tariff filing with FERC:

Commissioner Stovall moved to join in the OMS comments and authorize Commissioner Jergeson to represent the Commission on any final edits. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist
Utility Division

(171) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) application to increase rates for natural gas service - Docket No. D2004.4.50:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to deny MDU's request to waive A.R.M. 38.5.176. Commissioner

Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan
Legal Division

(172) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NWE Bankruptcy:

Commissioner Stovall moved to convene a closed portion of the worksession at 2 p.m. to discuss matters under the protective order and litigation exception. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Laura Calkin
Centralized Services Division

(173) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Personnel/Budget matters:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to upgrade the attorney position (#42100037) to a grade 19 and to go forward with a pay exception request for the computer systems analyst position (#42100029) for an annual salary of \$48,000. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Commissioner Jergeson moved to prepare a broadband application for both positions if the requests for an upgrade and a pay exception are not approved by the Department of Administration. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

BOB ROWE, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)