

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Wednesday January 25, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman via telephone
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

Commissioner Robert H. Raney was absent but left his proxies with Commissioner Jergeson.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson, Legal Division

(37) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NWE - N2005.6.101- Natural Gas Procurement Plan:

Commissioner Schneider moved to reconsider this interim order for clarification. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mood moved to permit the initial filing of an abbreviated resource plan by March 15, 2006 and it must capture all elements of the guidelines including hedging and strategies. The Commission expects no more time will be allowed and expects that NorthWestern be aggressive in its' thought processes leading to the plan and the plan will be meaningful. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved to amend the interim order by taking out the word "annual" filing and insert the word "biennial". Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mood moved to amend the interim order guidelines or objectives by putting in language suggested by Commissioner Schneider:

To put in a semicolon before and in 4 (1)(d) and create a new subsection (e) stating "maintain a portfolio of supply contracts, storage utilization, and hedging that mitigates price risk."

Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider moved NorthWestern Energy hedging proposal including financial hedging, is not moot. The schedule proposed by NorthWestern Energy is not in effect. At this time the PSC does not intend to include any hedging, financial or otherwise in the guidelines, other than what has been approved in the interim order. The PSC expects that NorthWestern Energy will include hedging, financial and otherwise, as a consideration in its resource plans, abbreviated and biennial. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)