

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, September 4, 2008, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Doug Mood, Vice Chairman
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Ken Toole, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(316) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of August 25, 2008:

Commissioner Mood moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of August 25, 2008. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Lori Sandru, Consumer Division

(317) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.8.101: NorthWestern Energy Medical Emergency Rule Application /payment arrangements.

Commissioner Toole moved to approve a monthly payment arrangement of \$450.00 per month as requested by NorthWestern Energy. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(318) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.8.102: NorthWestern Energy Medical Emergency Rule Application /payment arrangements.

Commissioner Mood moved to approve a monthly budget billing payment of \$146.00 per month as requested by NorthWestern Energy. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan, Legal Division

(319) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.6.69: Application by NorthWestern Energy for approval of its interest in Colstrip Unit 4 as an Electricity Supply Resource Under Certain Terms and conditions including certain treatment of net operating losses.

Motion #1: Commissioner Raney moved to grant Richard J. Johnson's application for Pro Hac Vice admittance on behalf of NorthWestern Energy in Docket D2008.6.69. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion #2: Commissioner Raney moved to deny NorthWestern Energy's request to allow a witness to be cross examined by two attorneys for one party. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion which passed 4-1. Commissioner Molnar voted no.

Motion #3: Commissioner Raney moved to allow a rebuttal witness to appear telephonically. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Motion #4: Commissioner Toole moved to grant HRC, District XI; NRDC; and RNP's motion for the Commission to accept the pre-filed cross-intervenor testimony of Dr. Power. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion #5: Commissioner Toole moved to fix the order of presentation of witnesses as NorthWestern Energy direct, Montana Consumer Counsel response, Environmental-Low Income Group cross-intervenor response, Montana Consumer Counsel rebuttal and NorthWestern Energy rebuttal so that the information would flow logically. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(320) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy's FERC §203 application for authorization to sell Colstrip Unit 4 to Bicient, Docket EC08-118-000:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to file as an intervenor and comment to ask FERC to defer its decision until the Public Service Commission has made its decision in FERC's Docket number EC08-118-00. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(321) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2006.7.108: KWB Pipeline. Application of Westech Energy Corporation, a Common Carrier Pipeline, to establish initial rates and charges for natural gas transportation service. Discuss and act on KWB'S objections to discovery and Sonalta's response and any other procedural matters that may arise.

Commissioner Raney moved to grant the motion to vacate the procedural schedule filed by Intervenor Sonalta in Docket D2006.7.108. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division

(322) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Travel Request for Gary Duncan:

Commissioner Toole moved to approve the travel request for Gary Duncan to attend the New Mexico State University Course during the week of October 13, 2008, New Mexico State University to pick up entire expense. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(323) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2003.1.4: Alltel f/k/a Western Wireless eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status and compliance. Discuss matters related to Alltel's designations as an ETC and its obligations to continue its designation.

Commissioner Toole moved to open an investigative docket to determine if Alltel is not in compliance with Commission Order No. 6492a to provide data for certification as an ETC. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

GREG JERGSON, Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Vice Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

KEN TOOLE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Verna Stewart
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)