

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Utility Division

(338) In the matter of D97.11.219: NorthWestern Energy. On September 8, 2008, NorthWestern Energy filed its semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a.

Commissioner Mood moved to APPROVE NorthWestern's requested rate changes for the semi-annual true-up of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator  
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(339) In the matter of T-08.34.RB: On August 19, 2008 the Whitefish Taxi, LLP, Whitefish, Montana applied for rate increases and decreases covering the passenger operations conducted under PSC No. 9437.

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE the rate increase as requested. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(340) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of September 15, 2008:

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of September 15, 2008. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jim Paine, Legal Division

(340) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.1.3: Qwest/Ronan/Hot Springs referral from U.S. District Court.

Commissioner Mood moved to SUSPEND the current procedural schedule and reschedule the hearing currently set for November 18, 2008, to January 15 and 16, 2009. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Lee, Utility Division

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(341) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.9.111: Commission Investigation of the ETC compliance of Alltel.

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE the draft order to initiate the investigation with the insertion of the old paragraph 60 and other minor editing changes. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Utility Division

Al Brogan, Legal Division

(342) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2008.4.36: The investigation of NorthWestern's compliance with Order No. 6505e. Richard J. Johnson's application for admission *pro hoc vice*. Pre-hearing procedural matters.

Motion 1: Commissioner Raney moved to ADMIT Richard J. Johnson *pro hoc vice*. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion 2: Commissioner Raney moved to DENY the motion for Leave to Substitute Witness, submitting Mr. Hanson for Mr. Corocoran. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion 3: Commissioner Toole moved to DENY NorthWestern's motion to Strike portions of the testimony of Dr. Wilson as being untimely and negating the need for further consideration. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Administrator, Legal Division

(343) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of travel authorization for Al Brogan to travel to Seattle for the Ninth Circuit oral argument on October 22, 2008:

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE travel for Al Brogan to travel to Seattle for oral argument before the Ninth Circuit Court on appeal of the FERC decision on PPL market based rates (MCC and PSC v PPL) on October 22, 2008. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Staci Litschauer, Centralized Services

(344) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of exempt staff pay raises:

Commissioner Raney moved to APPROVE the requested 3 percent raise to exempt staff (Wayne Budt, Kate Whitney, Robin McHugh and Sarah Carlson) effective with the pay period ending 10/10/08. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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GREG JERGESON, Chairman

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DOUG MOOD, Vice Chairman

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BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

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ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

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KEN TOOLE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Verna Stewart  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)