

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, June 16, 2011, the following members were present:

Travis Kavulla, Chairman
Gail Gutsche, Vice Chair
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
John Vincent, Commissioner

*Commissioner Gallagher was excused, voted several specific issues leaving them with the Commission Secretary but left his proxy on certain other issues with Commissioner Molnar.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(259) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of May 23, 2011.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of May 23, 2011. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(260) In the matter of N2011.5.44: On May 26, 2011, Citizens Telecommunications filed Advice Letter No. MT-11-02.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE Citizens Telecommunications Advice Letter No. MT-11-02 in Docket No. N2011.5.44. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(261) In the matter of D2009.9.129: On June 9, 2011, NorthWestern Energy requested the Commission's permission, effective June 16, 2011, to expire the Electric and Natural Gas Delivery Services Rebate included in Order No. 7046h in Docket No. D2009.9.129.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to ALLOW NorthWestern Energy to expire Electric and Natural Gas Delivery Service Rebate included in Order No. 7046h in Docket No. D2009.9.129. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Leroy Beeby, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(262) In the matter of D2011.5.36- NorthWestern Energy 2011-2012 gas tracker, interim order.

**Please refer to the minutes for the week of July 4, 2011, minute entry #284.*

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE Interim Order No. 7152 in Docket No. D2011.5.36. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(263) In the matter of D2011.1.8: Mountain Water Co. acquisition by Carlyle Group. MCC's request for an extension of time to file intervenor testimony due to a pending protective order request from Carlyle covering the information MCC seeks.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the request for extension of time to file intervenor testimony due to the pending protective order request from Carlyle and to reflect an effective date of eleven days after the grant of any protective order in Docket No. D2011.1.8. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Commissioner Kavulla

(264) In the matter of Chief Legal Counsel Position.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPOINT Dennis Lopach as Public Service Commission Chief Legal Counsel at the upper end of the salary range specified in the job notice. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed 3-2. Commissioner Gallagher and Commissioner Molnar voted nay.

APPEARANCE

Eric Dahlgren, Regulatory Division

(265) In the matter of NERC Membership.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to RENEW NERC membership and APPOINT Commissioner Gutsche as the Commission's primary NERC representative and designate Eric Dahlgren as the alternate representative. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(266) In the matter of out of state staff travel:

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE Brian DeKiep's travel request to attend the Northern Tier Transmission Group's stakeholder's meeting in Portland, Oregon, on July 28, 2011. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Chairman

GAIL GUTSCHE, Vice Chair

W. A. GALLAGHER, Commissioner

BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Verna Stewart
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)