

Minutes for the week of June 27, 2011

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(276) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of May 30, 2011.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of May 30, 2011. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division

(277) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2010.6.57: NorthWestern Energy's June 2010 Procurement Plan.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to HOLD a meeting to discuss and act on NorthWestern Energy's June 2010 procurement plan. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division
Bob Decker, Regulatory Division

(278) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of N2011.1.1: Renewable Portfolio Standard Electricity Supplier Report.

Chairman Kavulla moved that NorthWestern Energy REFILE its 2010 Electricity Supplier Report with the supplier account numbers and names as described above, giving the suppliers ample notice and opportunity to seek protection of their supplier account numbers as a trade secret. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(279) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2011.6.47: MDU Fuel and Purchase Power Cost Tracking Adjustment Rate 58.

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Chairman Kavulla moved to APPROVE MDU's request for interim relief. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Brad Molnar, Commissioner

(280) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2011.5.38: additional issue in NWE's currently-pending Electric Supply Deferred Cost Account Balance and Projected Electric Supply Cost filing.

Commissioner Molnar directed staff to request NorthWestern Energy to SUBMIT an additional filing on the projection of DSM savings. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 2. Chairman Kavulla and Commissioner Gutsche voted no.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(281) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2007.7.82 and D2009.9.129: NorthWestern Energy's Application for Approval for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas and Electric Deliver Service Rates.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE Order on Remand and approve the implementation of the reduction in electric delivery rates. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 2. Commissioner Gallagher and Commissioner Molnar voted no.

(282) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2011.1.8: Consolidated Petition by Mountain Water for Declaratory Rulings and Application for Approval of Sale.

MOTION 1: Commissioner Gutsche moved to DECLINE the petition for declaratory ruling to Mountain Water and APPROVE the order as written. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION 2: Commissioner Gutsche moved to GRANT an extension of the Montana Consumer Counsel and Clark Fork Coalition; grant an extension of intervenor testimony to July 29th, and direct staff to work with the parties to find a hearing date within the first two weeks of September. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jim Paine, Legal Division

(283) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Lightning Ram, Inc. d/b/a Shuttle to Big Sky and Taxi – Lightning Ram's request to split its authority:

Commissioner Vincent moved to AUTHORIZE staff to set a date for oral argument. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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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:

Judy Scheier
Assistant Commission Secretary

(SEAL)