

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 20, 2011, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(361) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of September 12, 2011.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of September 12, 2011. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Regulatory Division

(362) In the matter of Docket No. D97.11.219: NorthWestern Energy's requested rate changes for the semi-annual true-up of NorthWestern Energy's natural gas transition bonds.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE NorthWestern Energy's requested rate changes for the semi-annual true-up. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Dalton, Regulatory Division

(363) In the matter of Docket No. D2000.11.200: Qwest Corporation interconnection agreement amendment between Qwest and OneEighty Communications.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the interconnection agreement amendment between Qwest and OneEighty Communications. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Dahlgren, Transportation Division

(364) In the matter of T-11.22.OTSC: On August 31, 2011, an Order to show cause was issued to Evans Transfer & Storage, Inc. Maricopa, Arizona, PSC No. 1712, for failure to file a 2010 Annual Report.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE canceling PSC No. 1712 in T-11.22.OTSC.

Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Dalton, Regulatory Division

(365) In the matter of Docket No. N2011.6.48: Avista Utilities Electric Tariff Schedule 70, changes to rules and regulations.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE Avista's revised tariff schedule 70 filing in Docket No. N2011.6.48. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

Jim Paine, Legal Division

(366) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.7.56: Qwest application for approval to change accounting methodology.

Chairman Kavulla moved to APPROVE Qwest's application to change accounting methodology. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(367) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.2.13: Five Valleys Gas true-up filing for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the default order in Docket No. D2011.2.13. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Legal Division

Gary Duncan, Regulatory Division

(368) In the matter of Docket No. N2011.8.69: Annual certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.

Chairman Kavulla moved to DIRECT staff to send letters to the FCC and USAC. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Sarah Norcott, Legal Division

Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division

(369) In the matter of Docket No. D2008.4.35: PSC investigation of NorthWestern Energy's contracting procedures related to new qualifying facilities.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE NorthWestern Energy's request to close the docket. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Sarah Norcott and Jim Paine, Legal Division

(370) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.5.41: Application for approval to purchase and operate the Spion Kop Wind project.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the draft order granting NorthWestern Energy's Motion for Protective Order. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jim Paine, Legal Division

(371) In the matter of Steve Forbes' filing seeking to initiate a formal complaint against NorthWestern Energy.

Chairman Kavulla moved to ACCEPT Mr. Forbes' filing as a formal complaint under the Commission's jurisdiction and order service of the filing on NorthWestern Energy. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(372) In the matter of D2011.9.79 and D2011.9.80: MCC and PSC tax orders.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the MCC and PSC tax orders. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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TRAVIS KAVULLA, Chairman

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GAIL GUTSCHE, Vice Chair

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W. A. GALLAGHER, Commissioner

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BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

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JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Aleisha Solem  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)