

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, November 17, 2011, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(430) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of November 7, 2011.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of November 7, 2011. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division
Jim Paine, Legal Division

(431) In the matter of TN 2513, TN 2514, and TN 2515.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to SPLIT PSC No. 9218, APPROVE the amendment of d/b/a to South Lake Medi-cab, and APPROVE the Lease of PSC No. 9479. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(432) In the matter of TN2516: Wilson LLC d/b/a City Cab Billings, Montana application for extension of the fuel surcharge.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the extension of the fuel surcharge. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Sarah Norcott, Legal Division
Neil Templeton, Regulatory Division

(433) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.6.54: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of 2011 avoided cost compliance filing-Schedule QFLT-1.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to GRANT the Motion to clarify Interim Order No. 7184.

Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division
Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division

(434) In the matter of Docket No. N2010.6.57: NorthWestern Energy 2009 Electric Supply Procurement Plan.

Chairman Kavulla moved to APPROVE the proposed comments on NorthWestern Energy's 2009 electric supply procurement plan incorporating commission comments. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Leroy Beeby, Scott Fabel, and Neil Templeton, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(435) In the matter of Docket No. D2010.9.90: Energy West Montana general rate case.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the final Order and to increase the allowed rate-case expense to \$50,000. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion.

Chairman Kavulla moved to AMEND the motion to decrease \$50,000 to \$40,000. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Gallagher dissenting.

The motion as amended passed 5 to 0.

APPEARANCE

Sarah Norcott and Jim Paine, Legal Division

(436) In the matter of SME Bankruptcy proceeding.

Commissioner Vincent moved to DIRECT staff to file the draft Motion for Intervention. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 2. Commissioners Molnar and Gallagher dissenting.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division
Nickie Eck, Transportation Division
Jim Paine, Legal Division

(437) In the matter of Docket No. TN2517: Great Falls Historic Trolley & Tour de Great Falls request for waiver of new rule regarding minimum liability insurance.

Chairman Kavulla moved to APPROVE the waiver indefinitely with the current existing limits. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(438) In the matter of Out of State Staff Travel: Obtain approval of Joel Tierney's travel to Bismarck, ND January 9-13, 2012 , for a joint MT, WY, ND, and SD DIMP inspection of MDU, and March 12-16, 2012, for the joint control room management inspection of MDU.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the out of state travel. Chairman Kavulla 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:

Aleisha Solem
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)