

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(21) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of January 16, 2012.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of January 16, 2012. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Unit

(22) In the matter of T-11.27.RI: American Medical Response proposed rate increase for PSC No. 8996.

Commissioner Molnar moved to APPROVE the rate increase for PSC No. 8996. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(23) In the matter of T-11.28.RI: Capital Taxi proposed rate increase for PSC No. 2111.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the proposed rate increase for PSC No. 2111. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Gary Duncan, Regulatory Division

(24) In the matter of Docket No. N2012.1.5, N2012.1.7, and N2012.1.8: Lincoln Telephone Company, Inc. and Southern Montana Telephone Company TECOM tariff addendums. Central Montana Communications & Triangle Telephone Coop MILEC tariff addendum.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the Lincoln Telephone Company, Inc. TECOM tariff addendum in Docket No. N2012.1.5, the Southern Montana Telephone Company TECOM tariff addendum in Docket No. N2012.1.7, and the Central Montana Communications MILEC tariff addendum in Docket No. N2012.1.8. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Regulatory Division

(25) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.12.106: Black Hills Powers quarterly fuel rate rider application.

Commissioner Molnar moved to APPROVE Black Hills Powers quarterly fuel rate rider application. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Legal Division  
Leroy Beeby, Regulatory Division

(26) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.4.32: Cut Bank Gas Company application to true up and make final gas cost from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 and recover from customers the under collection of \$118,462.

Commissioner Vincent moved to CANCEL the tentative hearing date and DIRECT staff to issue a Notice of Opportunity to Request a Hearing. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dagan Lynch, Regulatory Division  
Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(27) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.6.45: NorthWestern Energy Townsend Propane application for propane supply cost account balance amortization and rate adjustment.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the bifurcation of the two issues into two different dockets. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(28) In the matter of Docket No. N2011.7.65: NorthWestern Energy electric line extension tariff revisions to reflect line extension refund period changing from 5 to 10 years.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the revised line extension tariff. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dennis Lopach, Administrator, Legal Division

(29) In the matter of Docket No. D2011.8.68: Hydrodynamics petition to set terms and conditions for a power purchase agreement for the Flint Creek Hydroelectric Project.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the motion to dismiss and withdrawal of the petition. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Commissioner Molnar

Jason Brown, Legal Division

Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division

(30) In the matter of PSC obligations under § 69-3-2007, MCA.

Commissioner Molnar moved to AUTHORIZE staff to start the process of determining how cost caps are determined by the Commission for Competitive Electricity Suppliers and under the law of § 69-3-2007, MCA. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which failed 2 to 3. Commissioners Molnar and Gallagher voting aye, Chairman Kavulla and Commissioner Gutsche and Vincent voting no.

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)