

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

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

APPEARANCE

Judy Scheier, Assistant Commission Secretary

(139) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of May 14, 2012.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of May 14, 2012. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(140) In the matter of Docket No. N2012.5.50: On May 8, 2012, NorthWestern Energy filed a proposed electric line extension tariff in accordance with the discussion at the Commission's April 17, 2-12 work session concerning a draft line extension rule. The proposed tariff reinstates the electric line extension tariff that was in effect prior to Final Order 7046 h in Docket D2009.9.129 (NorthWestern Energy's most recent general rate case), except for statutorily required changes regarding line extension advances and some clarifying revisions. NorthWestern Energy requests the tariff, if approved, become effective 14 days after approval, because implementation will require business process changes by NorthWestern Energy.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the proposed electric line extension tariff and the requested effective date. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Acting Chairman Molnar voted no.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(141) In the matter of Docket No. T-12.7.PCNT: On May 14, 2012, Sidney Shuttle, LLC, Sidney, Montana filed an application for temporary operating authority authorizing the following:

Class B – Passengers in rate regulated service between all points and places in Richland and Dawson County, Montana.
LIMITATION: Transportation movements must originate or terminate in Richland County, Montana.

The application for temporary authority was accompanied by the required fee, affidavits of support and a request for permanent operating authority, as required by 69-12-207. If approved the grant of authority would be for 30 days and an extension of an additional 90 days may be granted. Closest rate regulated passenger carrier is Miles City, MT and is limited to a 50 mile radius of Miles City.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the issuance of temporary authority to Sidney Shuttle, LLC. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(142) In the matter of Docket No. TN2538: Floaters Shuttle, LLC, Bozeman, Montana requests permission to lease PSC NO. 9463 to Paul LeGros d/b/a Madison River Shuttle, Belgrade, Montana for a two month period, May 17, 2012 to July 17, 2012.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the lease of PSC No. 9463. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dagan Lynch, Utility Division

(143) In the matter of Docket No. D2012.5.47: NorthWestern Energy/Townsend Propane application for propane supply cost account balance amortization and rate adjustment.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the interim order in Docket No. D2012.5.47. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dennis Lopach, Legal Division

(144) In the matter of Docket No. D2012.1.3: NorthWestern Energy application for approval of avoided cost tariff for new qualifying facilities.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE revised procedural schedule. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Dennis Lopach, Legal Division

(145) In the matter of Docket No. D2012.3.25: NorthWestern Energy application to place the Battle Creek Natural Gas production resources in rate base and to recover associated expenses.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to GRANT Motion for Special Limited Intervention; and GRANT Motion for Protective Order. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Dennis Lopach, Legal Division

(146) In the matter of Docket No.N2012.3.26.: FCC Lifeline Implementation Waiver Request.

Acting Chairman Molnar moved to APPROVE the withdrawal of the PSC's FCC Lifeline Implementation Waiver Petition. 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:

Judy Scheier
Assistant Commission Secretary

(SEAL)