

Minutes for the week of July 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Judy Scheier, Assistant Commission Secretary

(211) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of July 10, 2012.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of July 10, 2012. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(212) In the matter of out-of-state staff travel: Elizabeth Kamback's travel to Oklahoma City , September 24-28, 2012, for the Safety Evaluation of Pipeline Systems course and John Torske's travel to Camp NARUC, August 6-17, 2012, in East Lansing, MI.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the out-of-state staff travel requests. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Regulatory Division

(213) In the matter of Docket No. D97.11.219: NorthWestern Energy Compliance Filing relating to final true-up for the refund to customers regarding the Fixed Transition Assets (FTA) Charges.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE NorthWestern Energy's request to refund FTA Charges over a one-year period starting on August 1, 2012. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Elizabeth Kamback, Regulatory Division

(214) In the matter of Docket No. N2012.6.72: On June 26, 2012 NorthWestern Energy submitted revised electric tariff sheets to reflect changes to section 8-5A of Rule number 8. Section 8-5A of rule 8 specifies the standard used for nominal system voltages. Currently the Commission has adopted ANSI Standard C84.1 2006 edition, and this tariff change will reflect this most current standard in NorthWestern Energy 's tariff.

Minutes for the week of July 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE the proposed revision to section 8-5A of rule 8 of Northwestern Energy's tariff. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(215) In the matter of Docket No. T-12.7.PCN: On May 14th Sidney Shuttle LLC made application for both temporary and permanent operating authority. The temporary authority was granted by the Commission and extended. The requests for authority were noticed to the public on June 18, 2012 and no protests were received.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the grant of permanent operating authority as requested. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(216) In the matter of Docket No. TN2545: Flathead Area Custom Transportation, Inc. d/b/a Kalispell Taxi & Airport Shuttle Service, Kalispell, Montana requests permission to lease PSC No 9364 to Jeanne M. Herron d/b/a Drive4U, Whitefish, Montana for one year, July 7, 2012 to July 7, 2013.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the renewal of the lease as requested. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(217) In the matter of Docket No. TN2546: Flathead Area Custom Transportation, Inc. d/b/a Kalispell Taxi & Airport Shuttle Service, Kalispell, Montana requests permission to continue the lease of PSC No. 56 to Jeanne M. Herron d/b/a Drive4U, Whitefish, Montana for one year, July 22, 2012 to July 22, 2013.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to APPROVE the renewal of the lease as requested. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(218) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D2012.5.49: NorthWestern Energy Electric Tracker.

Minutes for the week of July 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

MOTION 1: Commissioner Kavulla moved to GRANT NorthWestern Energy the reconsideration of the interim order. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MOTION 2: Commissioner Kavulla moved to ISSUE the draft interim order on reconsideration. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Molnar dissented.

APPEARANCE

Dennis Lopach, Administrator, Legal Division

(219) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D2012.1.3: NorthWestern Energy's Application for Approval of Avoided Cost Tariff for New Qualifying Facilities.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE staff's recommendation to sustain NorthWestern Energy's objections to certain data requests of United Materials and Exergy, but to note in the Notice of Commission action that the intervenor is free to seek to amend the procedural order to provide it with a method of follow up on NorthWestern Energy's responses in order to understand the derivation of the forecast; or, in the alternative, to encourage the parties to come to a resolution. Acting Chair Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Gallagher dissented.

APPEARANCE

Staci Litschauer, Administrator, Centralized Service Division

(220) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of 2012 Governor's Award for Excellence.

Commissioner Vincent moved to NOMINATE Judy Scheier for a 2012 Governor's Award for Excellence. Commissioner Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Minutes for the week of July 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

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)