

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 28, 2012, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Judy Scheier, Assistant Commission Secretary

(244) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of August 20, 2012

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of August 20, 2012. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Elizabeth Kamback, Regulatory Division

(250) In the matter of Docket No. N2012.8.83: On August 6, 2012, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. filed an application with the Commission for a new tariff sheet to change the thermal heating zone boundaries.

Commissioner Molnar moved to APPROVE Montana Dakota Utilities' request for a new thermal hearing zone as Zone 191. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(251) In the matter of Docket No. N2012.8.86: On August 15, 2012, CenturyLink QC filed a petition to abandon its NextConnects Call Management Feature also known as Call Queuing.

Commissioner Vincent moved to APPROVE CenturyLink QC's request in Docket No. N2012.8.86. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Division

(252) In the matter of Docket No. TN2549: Fred M. Zweifel dba Circle Z Enterprises, Virginia City, MT requests permission to suspend PSC No. 9270 for a six month period, September 16, 2012 to March 16, 2013.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE the suspension of PSC No. 9270. Chairman Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Leroy Beeby, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Legal Division

(253) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D2012.7.78: Havre Pipeline application to decrease rates for farmstead service.

Chairman Kavulla moved to APPROVE the draft order granting interim rates. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Bob Decker, Regulatory Division
Dennis Lopach, Chief Legal Counsel

(254) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No D2008.8.95: NorthWestern Energy request for clarification regarding Carbon Offset Program.

Chairman Kavulla moved to ISSUE a Notice of Opportunity to Comment for any member of the public who wished to do so based on the three concerns of the Commission outlined on page one of the staff memorandum: 1) how the 2.5% cost cap based on the cost of producing electricity should apply to the Dave Gates Generating Station; 2) the absence of a definition of cost effectiveness that includes practical terms or units; 3) and uncertainty about whether an annual or a recurring procedure versus a one-time-only procedure should be used in establishing this program. 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)