

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on April 11, 2013, the following members were present:

Bill Gallagher, Chairman
Bob Lake, Vice Chairman
Kirk Bushman, Commissioner via phone
Travis Kavulla, Commissioner via phone
Roger Koopman, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(115) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of April 1, 2013.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of April 1, 2013. Chairman Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Regulatory Division

(116) In the matter of Out of state staff travel.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE Ousmane Loum's travel to San Francisco, CA, May 14-15, 2013 to attend the Security Development Conference, and to Redmond, VA, August 19-23, 2013 to attend the Visual Studio Live! conference; Dagan Lynch's travel to Denver, CO, May 6-7, 2013 to attend the EUCI course "Depreciation Fundamentals for Utilities & Energy Companies. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Joel Tierney, Regulatory Division

(117) In the matter of N2013.1.1: Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's request for approval of Rate 53 tariff.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the Rate 53 tariff. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Leroy Beeby, Dagan Lynch, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(118) In the matter of D2012.9.100: Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's application to increase general natural gas rates.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the draft interim order. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to DIVIDE the question. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Lake dissenting.

The Commission voted to APPROVE the draft interim order except paragraphs 15, 17, 18, and 30 impacted by return on equity selection. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission voted to APPROVE the draft interim order as written. The motion passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Kavulla dissenting.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Leroy Beeby, Dagan Lynch, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(119) In the matter of D2012.9.100: Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's application to increase general natural gas rates.

Commissioner Koopman moved to SUSPEND the procedural schedule, VACATE the hearing, and DIRECT staff to reset the procedural schedule. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division

(120) In the matter of D2012.6.65 et seq.: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of avoided cost compliance filing - schedule QFLT-1.

Commissioner Lake moved to GRANT the motion for final order and DIRECT NWE to file tariffs necessary to implement rates. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was closed for Executive session.

APPEARANCE

Angelina Hall, Centralized Services Division

(121) In the matter of Centralized Services Division Administrator position.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Chairman making an offer to candidate #1 with a salary range of \$53,000-\$58,000 annually; should candidate #1 decline, the Chairman is AUTHORIZED to make the same salary offer to candidate #2. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 0. Commissioner Koopman abstaining.

APPEARANCE
Chairman Gallagher

(122) In the matter of Financial Specialist compensation.

Chairman Gallagher moved to APPROVE the annual compensation to the market rate of \$48,080. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

W. A. GALLAGHER, Chairman

BOB LAKE Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Aleisha Solem
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)