

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on January 23, 2014, the following members were present:

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

Commissioner Bushman was excused after work session number 24, and left his proxy with Chairman Gallagher.

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(17) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of January 13, 2014.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of January 13, 2014. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Brenda Koch, Transportation Unit

(18) In the matter of T-13.24.PCN: Alvis Miller d/b/a University Movers' application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Commissioner Lake moved to CANCEL the authority granted in Final Order 7316 and CLOSE docket T-13.24.PCN. Chairman Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Nickie Eck, Transportation Unit

(19) In the matter of TN2602: Flathead Glacier Transportation LLC's request to lease PSC No. 9015 to Randy Cowger d/b/a Glacier Taxi.

Chairman Gallagher moved to APPROVE the lease of PSC No. 9015. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division
Joel Tierney, Bob Decker, David Lofftus, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(20) In the matter of D2013.12.85: Northwestern Energy's application for approval of the

acquisition of PPL Montana LLC's hydroelectric generating facilities in Montana.

Commissioner Bushman moved to DIRECT staff to enter into a contract with Essex Partnership with the total amount of the contract not to exceed \$80,000. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Gary Duncan, Regulatory Division

(21) In the matter of 2015 Telecommunications Legislation.

Commissioner Lake moved to DIRECT staff to open a docket and ISSUE a request for comments regarding the possible 2015 telecommunications legislation. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division
Will Rosquist, Neil Templeton, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Jason Brown, Legal Division

(22) In the matter of the investigation into the off-system fixed price hedging transactions and other possible hedging mechanisms available to NorthWestern Energy.

Commissioner Lake moved to DIRECT staff to open a docket to include hedging and all other market transactions with a comment deadline at the end of March. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division

(23) In the matter of D2013.12.85: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of the acquisition of PPL Montana LLC's hydroelectric generating facilities in Montana.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to GRANT the motion for protective order of confidential projections of PPL EnergyPlus, LLC. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Jason Brown, Legal Division

(24) In the matter of D2013.12.85: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of the acquisition of PPL Montana LLC's hydroelectric generation facilities in Montana.

Commissioner Koopman moved to GRANT the motion for protective order of confidential

information of PA Consulting Group, Inc. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

Jason Brown, Legal Division

Leroy Beeby, Regulatory Division

(25) In the matter of D2013.12.83: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of automatic rate adjustment and tracking for taxes and fees.

Commissioner Lake moved to ALLOW the rates to go into effect as a matter of law. Chairman Gallagher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to DIRECT staff to draft and send a letter to NorthWestern Energy under Docket No. D2013.12.83 noting the Commission's concern about the lack of public awareness of the property taxes paid in NorthWestern Energy rates and requesting that NorthWestern Energy find a way of disclosing an average natural gas and electric consumers lump sum paid in taxes, as well as, a percentage of taxes paid through NorthWestern rates. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

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)