

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on October 16, 2014, the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Sandy Scherer, Assistant Commission Secretary

(268) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of October 6, 2014.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of October 6, 2014. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division

(269) In the matter of Out of State staff travel.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the out of state travel of Laura Farkas to the 16th Annual Telecommunications Law Conference meeting in Denver, Colorado December 4-5, 2014 and Margo Schurman to the Western States & Provincial Meetings of the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperative (CREPC), the State-Provincial Steering Committee (SPSC), and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB), in San Diego, CA, October 20-22, 2014. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(270) In the matter of D2014.9.81: Black Hills Power Inc.'s application for authority to establish a quarterly fuel rate rider.

Commissioner Bushman moved to APPROVE the default order as requested. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Leroy Beeby, Regulatory Division

(271) In the matter of D2014.9.87: Energy West Inc.'s application for approval of interim

increase to its Bank of America financing facility.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to ADOPT Montana Consumer Counsel's request for additional time to file comments; FIND that good cause exists to extend another 30 day deadline; and to ESTABLISH a procedural schedule. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division
Jason Brown, Legal Division

(272) In the matter of D2014.4.43: NorthWestern Energy's petition to set contract terms and conditions for Greenfield Wind, LLC.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to GRANT Greenfield's Renewed Motion to Compel with respect to data requests GW-021(a), GW-036, GW-037 and GW-038(c) (exempting GW-35 as referenced in GW-038(c)); address this as a dispute with regard to the Ascent Analytics modeling run costs; establish a two-stage, symmetrical cost-sharing mechanism in which Greenfield is directed to pay up to \$10,000 of the actual costs of the additional model runs in this proceeding, and NorthWestern to deduct a proportional amount (based on a ratio of \leq \$10,000 to actual additional costs) from any future recovery of costs related to its use and defense of PowerSimm in this proceeding. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(273) In the matter of Senator Verdell Jackson's request for FERC consideration of Kerr Dam license transfer.

Commissioner Gallagher moved to AUTHORIZE staff to draft a letter for circulation among the Commissioners to Secretary Bose of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding concerns the Commission has on the unfairness and lack of due process for opportunity for input involving this decision that was completed in 1985; reiterate the elements and concerns cited in Order 7323k of D2013.12.85 (Hydro case); request FERC staff delegate to communicate with the Public Service Commission as to what is contemplated and answer questions with regard to the conditions of the license transfer; and encourage FERC to consider a public review of this process to determine if it is in the public interest. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Lori Sandru, Consumer Complaints Division

(274) In the matter of the complaint of Steven Burch versus NorthWestern Energy.

Commissioner Gallagher motioned to GRANT NorthWestern Energy's Motion to Compel and DIRECT staff to reset the procedural schedule. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator, Regulatory Division
Joel Tierney, Regulatory Division

(275) In the matter of the proposed Utility Engineer Advancement Policy.

Commissioner Gallagher motioned to APPROVE the Utility Engineer career ladder. Commissioner Bushman 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:

Sandy Scherer
Assistant Commission Secretary

(SEAL)