

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
AGENDA NO. 12-07-17**

Date Published: July 12, 2012
For Work Week Commencing: July 16, 2012
Commission Meeting: July 17, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's agenda for the work week designated. In the latter part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Live webcast Unless otherwise noted on this agenda, all Commission meetings held during regular business hours that are noticed on this agenda will be webcast live via the audio and video feed links on the PSC website at <http://psc.mt.gov> (go to "Agendas & Meetings" then "Audio/Video Archives"). The audio feeds of meetings are also archived at the same website location.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room – No Web Audio Feed)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Approval of Commission Minutes (Aleisha)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of July 10, 2012

2. Out-of-state staff travel (Kate)

Staff requests approval of 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. Probable motion: Move to approve the out-of-state staff travel requests.

3. NorthWestern Energy D97.11.219 (Eric)

On July 5, 2012, NWE filed its Compliance Filing relating to the final true-up for the refund to customers regarding the Fixed Transition Assets (FTA) Charges. NWE, as servicer of the Transition Bonds and on behalf of the Montana Power Company Natural Gas Funding Trust, requests that the Montana Public Service Commission approve the ending cash balance and the associated rates designed to amortize the balance and provide a refund to customers.

Since the expiration of the FTA Charges on March 15, 2012, the refund regarding FTA Charges net of expenses amounts to \$(4,104,598) including interest at June 30, 2012. NWE is proposing to refund the balance to customers utilizing the existing Credit Rate schedules over a one-year period starting on August 1, 2012.

The proposed Credit Rates will result in a bill decrease for a typical residential customer using 100 therms per month of \$1.59 per month or \$19.08 per year. This results in an overall decrease of 1.94 percent on the total bill.

Staff recommends the approval of the refund to customers of the FTA charges. Probable Motion: Approve NWE's request to refund FTA Charges in the amount of \$(4,104,598) utilizing the existing Credit Rate Schedules over a one-year period starting on August 1, 2012.

4. NorthWestern Energy N2012.6.72 (Elizabeth)

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. Staff recommends approval. Probable motion: Move to approve the proposed revision to section 8-5A of rule 8 of Northwestern Energy's tariffs.

5. Sidney Shuttle LLC T-12.7.PCN (Nickie)

On May 14, 2012 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. Probable Motion: Approve the grant of permanent operating authority as requested.

Class B – Passengers in rate regulated service between all points and places in Richland and Dawson County, Montana. LIMITATION: Transportation movements must originate or terminate in Richland County, Montana.

6. Kalispell Taxi & Airport Shuttle Service TN2545 (Nickie)

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. Probable Motion: Approve the renewal of the lease as requested.

SUB B Class B - Passengers, baggage and express between all points and places in Lincoln and Sanders Counties. Limitations: Transportation of railway crews is prohibited. Transportation by limousine is prohibited. 2) Transportation by limousine is prohibited. 3) Transportation of passengers, baggage and express between points and places in Libby, Montana and a thirty (30) mile radius thereof is prohibited. 4) Transportation of passengers, baggage and express between points and places in Eureka, Montana and a thirty (30) mile radius thereof is prohibited.

SUB C Class B - Passengers, baggage and express between all points and places in Eureka, Montana and a thirty (30) mile radius thereof. Limitations: 1) Transportation of railway crews is prohibited. 2) Transportation by limousine is prohibited.

7. Kalispell Taxi & Airport Shuttle Service TN2546 (Nickie)

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. Probable Motion: Approve the renewal of the lease as requested.

Class B - Persons, baggage and express within the City of Kalispell, Montana and between points and places tributary thereto, but not exceeding fifty (50) miles in any direction from said City of Kalispell.

SUB A Class B - Persons within the City of Kalispell, Montana, and to or from points tributary thereto, but within a distance not exceeding twenty-five (25) miles in any direction from said city.

SUB C Class B - Persons and hand luggage between all points and places within the town of Kalispell, Montana.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2012.5.49 – NWE – Electric Tracker – Discuss and act on NWE’s motion for reconsideration of interim order. (7/17/12)
2. D2012.1.3 – NWE – Application for Approval of Avoided Cost Tariff for New Qualifying Facilities – Discuss and act on NWE’s objection to UMX-029, UMX-030 and UMX-031 filed by United Materials of Great Falls, Inc. on June 25, 2012. (7/17/12)
3. 2012 Governor’s Award for Excellence – Discuss PSC recipient of 2012 Governor’s Award. (7/17/12)

Other Meetings

Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee meeting – 7/16/12, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, and 7/17/12, 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM – Billings

Weekly Scheduling, Review of Monthly Calendars, and Docket Status Updates (if requested by a Commissioner).

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

Protective Orders – Notice Items The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Copies of these requests may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

Protective Orders – Information Items The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008. Copies of these orders may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

1. Project Telephone Company N2012.4.36 (Gary, Brenda)

On July 9, 2012, Project Telephone Company filed a Motion for a Protective Order for the protection of information contained in the 2012 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers – FCC Annual Reporting Requirements, filed pursuant to FCC rules § 54.304 and § 51.917. Project Telephone Company requests a standard protective order to protect from public disclosure certain financial and operating information that it claims is confidential information.

2. Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc. N2012.4.36 (Gary, Brenda)

On July 9, 2012, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative Inc. filed a Motion for a Protective Order for the protection of information contained in the 2012 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers – FCC Annual Reporting Requirements, filed pursuant to FCC rules § 54.304 and § 51.917. Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative requests a standard protective order to protect from public disclosure certain financial and operating information that it claims is confidential information.

3. Nemont Telephone Cooperative Inc. N2012.4.36 (Gary, Brenda)

On July 9, 2012, Nemont Telephone Cooperative Inc. filed a Motion for a Protective Order for the protection of information contained in the 2012 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers – FCC Annual Reporting Requirements, filed pursuant to FCC rules § 54.304 and § 51.917. Nemont Telephone Cooperative requests a standard protective order to protect from public disclosure certain financial and operating information that it claims is confidential information.

4. Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association Inc. N2012.4.36 (Gary, Brenda)

On July 9, 2012, Triangle Telephone Cooperative Association filed a Motion for a Protective Order for the protection of information contained in the 2012 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers – FCC Annual Reporting Requirements, filed pursuant to FCC rules § 54.304 and § 51.917. Triangle Telephone Cooperative requests a standard protective order to protect from public disclosure certain financial and operating information that it claims is confidential information.

5. Central Montana Communications Inc. N2012.4.3 (Gary, Brenda)

On July 9, 2012, Central Montana Communications Inc. filed a Motion for a Protective Order for the protection of information contained in the 2012 Annual Certification of Montana Eligible Telecommunications Carriers – FCC Annual Reporting Requirements, filed pursuant to FCC rules § 54.304 and § 51.917. Central Montana Communications Inc. requests a standard protective order to protect from public disclosure certain financial and operating information that it claims is confidential information.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

None