

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on June 16, 2016 the following members were present:

Brad Johnson, Chairman
Travis Kavulla, Vice Chairman
Kirk Bushman, Commissioner via phone
Roger Koopman, Commissioner
Bob Lake, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(101) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of June 6, 2016.

Commissioner Koopman moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of June 6, 2016. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Brenda Koch, Transportation Unit

(102) In the matter of T-16.15.COC: MTaxi, LLC's application for certificate of compliance to provide Class B transportation.

Commissioner Koopman moved to ISSUE a Notice of Commission Action establishing a seven day deadline for Greater Valley Taxi to state specific legal grounds for their protest and establishing a seven day deadline for MTaxi to respond. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division
Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Laura Farkas, Legal Division
Neil Templeton, Regulatory Division

(103) In the matter of D2016.5.39: NorthWestern energy's application to update QF-1 tariff standard rates.

MAIN MOTION: Commissioner Lake moved to GRANT the motion and suspend NorthWestern Energy's (NorthWestern) obligation under QF-1 tariff option 1(a) standard rates for solar projects greater than 100 kW pending issuance of a final order. The suspension is effective upon demonstration by NorthWestern that it has executed contracts with solar QFs not exceeding 54 MW. Upon executing contracts not exceeding 54 MW, suspension of standard rate obligations will be in effect and NorthWestern will not execute additional contracts with solar QFs greater than 100 kW at tariffed standard rates unless it is prepared to demonstrate the cost effectiveness and prudence of those contracts in a future proceeding. The suspension will

automatically expire on the service date of the issuance of the Commission's final order in Docket D2016.5.39. Chairman Johnson seconded the motion.

AMENDED MOTION: Commissioner Koopman moved to GRANT NorthWestern's motion and suspend its obligation under QF-1 tariff option 1(a) standard rates for solar projects greater than 100 kW pending issuance of a final order. Explicitly authorizing NorthWestern to execute contracts with solar QFs greater than 100 kW at the standard tariff rate following Commission action suspending standard rate obligations if, prior to the date of the Commission's action, the QF had submitted a signed power purchase agreement and executed an interconnection agreement. The suspension will automatically expire on the service date of the issuance of the Commission's final order in Docket D2016.5.39. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion which passed 3 to 2. Commissioners Lake and Bushman dissenting.

The main motion as amended passed 3 to 2. Commissioners Kavulla and Bushman dissenting.

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



BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman



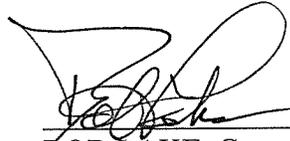
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman



KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner



ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner



BOB LAKE, Commissioner

ATTEST:



Aleisha Solem
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)