

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on September 27, 2016 the following members were present:

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

APPEARANCE

Sandy Scherer, Administrative Assistant

(156) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of September 12, 2016.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of September 12, 2016. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Micaela Kurth and Mike Dalton, Regulatory Division

(157) In the matter of D2016.8.61: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval of its BPA residential exchange program credit.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the application for approval of NorthWestern Energy's BPA residential exchange program credit. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Micaela Kurth, Regulatory Division
Jeremiah Langston, Legal Division

(158) In the matter of D2016.7.58: Havre Pipeline Company LLC's farmstead customer rate application for interim rate adjustment and whether to consolidate D2016.7.58 with existing consolidated dockets D2013.7.56 and D2015.9.70.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the Interim Order for D2016.7.58. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Lake dissenting.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to CONSOLIDATE D2016.7.58 with existing consolidated dockets D2013.7.56 and D2015.9.70. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(158) Vote Solar and MEIC Complaint to FERC alleging violations of PURPA.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the hiring of Jennifer Key as outside counsel to respond and defend against the complaint with an initial \$30,000 cap on fees and regular review of expenditures. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(159) In the matter of N2016.8.62: PSC Initiated – Operator Service Provider Rate Caps.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the waiver of Mont. Admin. R. 38.5.3403(2) and keep rate caps established in N2015.8.61 in place through September 30, 2017. Chairman Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Gary Duncan and Mike Dalton, Regulatory Division

(160) In the matter of N2016.4.37: PSC Initiated – In the matter of 2016 ETC Certification.

Commissioner Koopman moved to APPROVE the recertification of all eligible Montana telecommunication carrier certifications for the coming year. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Koopman moved to DIRECT staff to come back to the Commission within 30 days with specific recommendations for evaluating and possibly setting up a round table discussion or rule making with stakeholders and other interested persons in regard to how the Commission can better partner with eligible telecommunication carriers regarding transparency and accountability regarding high cost funds received by the carriers. Commissioner Kavulla seconded the motion, which passed 3-1. Commissioners Bushman dissenting and Lake abstaining.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division
Scott Fabel, Regulatory Division

(161) In the matter of D2012.6.69, D2013.6.49, D2014.6.54 and D2015.6.49: Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's application for authority to implement a fuel and purchased power cost tracking adjustment.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the final orders. Commissioner Bushman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

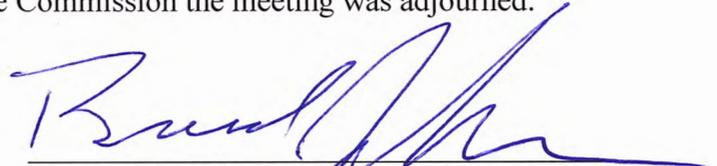
APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division

(162) In the matter of PSC Initiated – Passenger motor carrier roundtable.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to DIRECT staff to contact ETIC regarding definition of the issues, send out a notice with a deadline for comments, and schedule a round table discussion in October. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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:



Sandy Scherer
Administrative Assistant

(SEAL)