At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., the following members were present:

Brad Johnson, Chairman
Bob Lake, Vice Chairman
Roger Koopman, Commissioner
Tony O’Donnell, Commissioner
Randy Pinocci, Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Video 05:42)

1. Montana Representative Mary Ann Dunwell, regarding: 1) Today’s Agenda Item No. 4 - expressed importance for public’s due process; and 2) Agenda Item No. 5 – Protective Order opposition.

APPEARANCE
(Video 08:51)
Vicki LaFond-Smith, Paralegal/Commission Secretary, Legal Division

(29) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of February 17, 2020.

Vice Chairman Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of February 17, 2020. Commissioner Pinocci seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
(Video 09:07)

(30) In the matter of a request for Out-of-State Staff Travel for Mandi Hinman to travel to New Orleans, LA, for a Government Conference. Commissioners postponed this Action Item due to Mandi Hinman’s absence from the Business Meeting.

APPEARANCE
(Video 09:19)
Robin Arnold, Regulatory Division

(31) In the matter of 2019.10.078 NorthWestern Energy’s Electric Tariff Rule No. 17. Discuss NorthWestern’s proposed revisions to Electric Tariff Rule No. 17.

Commissioner O’Donnell moved to ADOPT Staff recommendation to approve NorthWestern’s proposal with suggested language amendment of MREA. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Johnson moved to ADOPT Staff recommendation to GRANT the Application of Three Rivers. Vice Chairman Lake seconded the motion, which passed with a majority vote 4 to 1, Commissioner Koopman dissenting.


Vice Chairman Lake moved to GRANT Staff authority to begin working on this matter as a legislative agenda item for the 2021 Legislative Session. Commissioner O’Donnell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In the matter of 2019.12.101 and 2019.09.058 NorthWestern Energy and Talen Montana, LLC.

Vice Chairman Lake moved to rescind the Commission’s Protective Order No. 7708a regarding the prior 1998 coal supply contract and the Sologic Report in the PCCAM docket. Commissioner O’Donnell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Lake moved to ADOPT Staff recommendation to GRANT the Protection Order to Talen Montana, LLC, for the NERC-GADS data, five-year budget forecast and ten-year capital expenditures, and compliance costs related to Colstrip. Commissioner Pinocci seconded motion, which passed with a majority vote 4 to 1, Commissioner Koopman dissenting.

Commissioner Koopman moved for an amendment to exclude the five-year budget forecast and ten-year capital expenditure projections from the Protective Order. Commissioner O’Donnell seconded motion. Motion for Amendment failed 4 to 1, Commissioner Koopman voting in favor.
The Commission meeting was adjourned and will reconvene for the CLOSED Out of Cycle Work Session at 10:30 a.m. today at the Commission Conference Room.

At the CLOSED Out of Cycle Work Session of the Business Meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission Conference Room in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., the following members were present:

Brad Johnson, Chairman  
Bob Lake, Vice Chairman  
Roger Koopman, Commissioner  
Tony O’Donnell, Commissioner  
Randy Pinocci, Commissioner

OUT OF CYCLE WORK SESSION  
APPEARANCE  
(CLOSED)  
Justin Kraske, Chief Legal Counsel and Administrator, Legal Division  
Zachary Rogala, Luke Casey, Ashley Morigeau, Legal Division

(35) In the matter of personnel issues.

Vice Chairman Lake moved to initiate discipline against one employee and establish an opportunity for the employee to respond prior to the Commission making a further decision at a future work session. Commissioner Pinocci seconded motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.
BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman

BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner

TONY O’DONNELL, Commissioner

RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Vicki LaFond-Smith, Commission Secretary

(Seal)