

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Office in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, **April 28, 2026**, at 1:30 p.m., a quorum was met with the following members present:

Jeffrey Welborn, President  
Jennifer Fielder, Vice President  
Randy Pinocci, Commissioner  
Annie Bukacek, Commissioner  
Brad Molnar, Commissioner (arrived at 1:33 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPEARANCE

Barbara Long, Assistant Commission Secretary

(37) In the matter of approval of the Commission Business Meeting minutes for the week of April 20, 2026.

Vice President Fielder moved the Commission to ADOPT the Business Meeting minutes for the week of April 20, 2026. Commissioner Bukacek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Terisa Oomens, Legal Department  
Grant Fink, Regulatory Division

(38) 2025.01.009 – NorthWestern Cut Bank Gas, LLC – NorthWestern Cut Bank Gas' Universal Systems Benefits Tracker – To discuss NorthWestern Cut Bank Gas' request for interim rates.

Commissioner Pirocci moved to APPROVE the draft order approving Northwestern Cut Bank Gas interim rates and authorize staff to make any non-substantive edits as necessary. Vice President Fielder seconded the motion, which passed, 4-1; Commissioner Molnar dissented.

APPEARANCE

Terisa Oomens, Legal Department  
Grant Fink, Regulatory Division

(39) 2026.04.022 – NorthWestern Energy – NorthWestern's Universal Systems Benefits Tracker – To discuss NorthWestern's request for interim rates.

Vice President Fielder moved to APPROVE the draft order approving Northwestern's interim rate in docket 2026.0422 and to authorize staff to make any non-substantive edits as necessary. Commissioner Bukacek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Amanda Webster, Legal Department

(40) 2025.08.058 – Commission Initiated – Rulemaking for utility long-term resource planning and competitive solicitations for electric resources – To consider issuing an updated Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement 2025 House Bill 55.

Commissioner Bukacek moved to APPROVE the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and authorized staff to make non-substantive edits and file the Notice with the Montana Secretary of State. Vice President Fielder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
President Jeff Welborn, District 3

The final work session on today’s agenda is a Commission-initiated personnel matter. This work session was publicly noticed as a discussion about the job performance of agency personnel. The entire discussion will relate to performance matters that implicate a reasonable expectation of privacy. We have contacted the personnel at issue, and they have not waived their right to privacy. In this instance, I determine that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. I determine that public closure of the final work session on today’s agenda is proper under Montana Code Annotated 2-3-203(3).

The Commission will now take a break to go into closed session to discuss confidential personnel matters. There will be no web or audio feed during this time. The portion of the Business concludes at 2:11 p.m. and will reconvene in the Commission Conference Room at 2:25 p.m.

We will adjourn and close today’s business meeting at the conclusion of the closed sessions and will not be returning to public session.


CLOSED WORK SESSION  
President Jeff Welborn, District 3

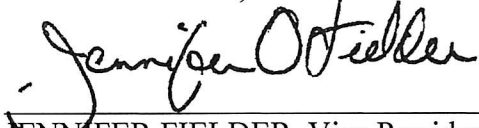
(41) Commission Initiated - Personnel Matters - To discuss personnel matters - May be closed, in part, to the public (no web/audio feed).

The Commission discussed personnel matters in a closed session. The minutes from the closed portion of the meeting may not be made available for inspection except pursuant to a court order, Mont. Code Ann. § 2-3-212(4).

The next Commission business meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

  
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JEFF WELBORN, President

  
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JENNIFER FIELDER, Vice President

*Randall Pinocci*

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RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner

*Annie Bukacek*

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ANNIE BUKACEK, Commissioner

*Brad Molnar*

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BRAD MOLNAR, Commissioner

ATTEST:

*Barbara Long*

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Barbara Long, Assistant Commission Secretary

