

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 10-01-05**

Date Published: December 31, 2009
For Work Week Commencing: January 4, 2010
Commission Meeting: January 5, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division 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 (<http://psc.mt.gov/eDocs/#Calendars>). The audio feeds of meetings are also archived at the same website location.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division 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. CenturyLink N2009.12.157 (Scott)

On December 9, 2009, CenturyLink filed Letter No. 09-09. The purpose of this filing is to add clarity to the application of non-recurring service charges associated with Custom Calling Features and Custom Calling II features and packages. The Company is requesting an effective date of January 9, 2010. Probable Motion: Approve CenturyLink's Letter No. 09-09 in Docket N2009.12.157.

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

1. D2008.1.6 – PSC Investigation of Qwest Corporation Regarding the Justness and Reasonableness of Rates, Schedules and Terms and Conditions of Service – Consider Qwest's Motion for Protective Order to protect answers to staff data requests regarding the number and type of subscribers to Qwest's high-speed internet service in specified wire centers. (1/5/10)
2. D2009.12.155 – NorthWestern Energy (NWE) – Application for Automatic Rate Adjustment and Tracking for Taxes and Fees – Decide if the Commission desires to hold a hearing on NWE's rate request on January 11, 2010. (1/5/10)
3. Placeholder – D2009.9.129 – NorthWestern Energy – Application for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas and Electric Delivery Service Rates and Implement Allocated Cost of Service and Rate Design Proposals – Discuss and respond to NWE's Objection to Data Requests PSC-226, PSC-230, PSC-231, and PSC-232. (1/5/10)
4. D2009.12.154 – Mountain Water Company – Application for Approval of a Tariffed Tracking Adjustment for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding – 1) Discuss waiving ARM 38.5.2610 on Commission's motion; or 2) Placeholder – Respond to a Mountain Water filing, if there is one, regarding the application of this rule. (1/5/10)
5. D2009.12.154 – Mountain Water Company – Application for Approval of a Tariffed Tracking Adjustment for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding – Discuss and act on Mountain Water's proposed tracking tariff in order to secure ARRA funding. (1/5/10)

6. PSC consultant funds – Discuss using consultant funds to continue converting PSC docket tracking system from VB6 to VB.NET. (1/5/10)

Other Meetings

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.

1. Verizon N2009.12.158 (Scott)

On December 17, 2009, Verizon filed Transmittal Letter No. 09-04 to grandfather RJL Savings Plan and to introduce RLJ Savings Plan II.

2. CenturyLink N2009.12.160 (Scott)

On December 21, 2009, CenturyLink filed Advice No. 09-10 to update Outbound Call Block, Custom Calling Services Feature and introduce Pure Broadband Bundle, a packaged service. Also the Company is implementing a Residence Customer Referral Program.

3. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) N2009.10.141 (Phil)

On October 30, 2009, MDU filed a tariff revision to its Natural Gas Service and Electric Rate Schedules to change the maximum allowed percentage of Federal Poverty for the Low-Income Discount from 150% to the maximum allowed by DPHHS. DPHHS establishes the percentage of poverty guidelines, and this change will eliminate the need for any further revisions to track subsequent changes by DPHHS.

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. Any person wanting a copy of a protective order request should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199.

1. NorthWestern Energy. D2009.9.129 (AI)

On December 28, 2009, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed a motion for protective order to govern access to certain confidential information that has been requested by a party in this Docket and a waiver of ARM 38.2.5007(3)(c) – affidavit requirement. Specifically, NWE seeks protection of its federal and state tax returns for the years 2006, 2007, and 2008. NWE asserts that the information is confidential as a matter of law.

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 obtained by calling the Commission at (406) 444-6199.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

N2009.12.158 – MCI Communications Service, Inc. dba Verizon Business Services – Tariff Transmittal Letter 09-04, Grandfather RLJ Savings Plan; Introduce RLJ Savings Plan II

D2009.12.159 – Black Hills Power, Inc. – Application for Authority to Establish a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider

N2009.12.160 – CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. dba CenturyLink – Advice No. 09-10, Tariff Revisions to Update Outbound Call Block, Custom Calling Services Feature and Introduce Pure Broadband Bundle

D2009.12.161 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. – Application for Authority for Deferred Accounting for Costs Related to Securing New Electric Generation

D2009.12.162 – Qwest Corporation and Partners Telecom, Inc. – Application for Approval of Interconnection Agreement