MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 01-09-11

Date Published: September 6, 2001
For Work Week Commencing: September 10, 2001
Business Meeting: September 11, 2001, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction *This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later 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://www.psc.state.mt.us.*

Place of Meetings *All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.*

Inquiries *General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182. He 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.*

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

1. D2001.9.120 – Montana Power Co – Request to disconnect utility service to a residential customer who claims protection under the medical emergency rule (ARM 38.5.1411)(9/11/01)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 8:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. QWEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Docket N2001.8.113 (Leroy)

   On August 23, 2001, QWEST Communications, Inc, filed Tariff Transmittal 01-29 to introduce DSS 1 Year Rate Stability Plan, reduce the DSS DS3 NRC charges, and to introduce a Rollover and Signaling Design Change Charge for DSS and UAS.

One Year RSP - DSS provides customers a digital connection from their PBX or Call Distribution CPE to the Public Switched Network. DSS is purchased as an alternative to PBX trunks which provide analog connections for PBX systems. DSS is composed of two elements. The DSS facility is a DS1 operating at 1.544 kbs from the customers' PBX to the USW central office. At the central office, DSS trunks are arranged to provide in, out or two-way connections to the Public Switched Network. DSS is arranged as either basic or advanced with basic arrangements having "line" side connections and advanced having "trunk" side connections. Qwest is proposing to introduce a one-year RSP option to meet customer demand for such an option. The proposed rates for the Advanced DSS arrangements for a one year RSP for DS1 is $145.00 monthly recurring, and $850.00 non-recurring, for In Only Advanced Trunk, $63.33 recurring and $73.10 non-recurring, for Out Only Advanced Trunk, $23.43 recurring and $73.10 non-recurring, for Two Way Advanced Trunk, $63.53 recurring and $73.10 non-recurring.
Reduction of the NRC when the DSS facility is provisioned on DS3 - Qwest is proposing to reduce the non-recurring charge for placing the DSS service on a DS3 service from $900 to $325.
Introduce a Rollover and Signaling Design Change Charge for DSS and UAS - Qwest is proposing to introduce two non-recurring charge options for 1) "rolling over" an existing DS1 on an existing DS3 and 2) changing the signaling design for the DSS or UAS facility. These charges would be assessed rather than the current non-recurring charges.
Qwest is requesting an effective date for this filing of September 10, 2001.

2. <u>QWEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Docket N2001.8.114 (Leroy)</u>

On August 23, 2001, QWEST Communications, Inc, filed Tariff Transmittal 01-30 "Digital Switched Service Promotion". During a 90 day promotional period beginning September 10, and ending December 7, 2001, non-recurring charges will be waived for customers entering into a one year rate stability agreement for DSS advanced service arrangements. This waiver is available on services ordered during the promotional period and installed by March 7, 2002. The promotion is only available where it is technically feasible to provide service and facilities are available during the promotional period.

3. CENTURYTEL SERVICE GROUP, INC Docket N2001.8.117 (Leroy)

On August 28, 2001 CenturyTel of Montana submitted Tariff P.S.C. Mont. No. 12 to introduce a Centrex promotional offering in which the network access line connection non-recurring charge of $31.20 will be waived for business or Centrex customers who subscribe to additional or new Centrex lines and features. If approved the promotional period will be from October 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001.

4. QWEST COMMUNICATIONS N2001.8.115 (Dave)

On August 23, 2001, Qwest Communication filed Tariff Transmittal 01-31, ISDN Primary Rate Service (PRS) non-recurring charge waiver promotion. ISDN (PRS) provides a digital four-wire full duplex transmission path/ at 1.544 mbps equivalent to a F1 facility. PRS is offered with either 23 B-channels and one D-channel (23B+D) or with 24 B-channels (24B) allowing customers the flexibility to develop configurations to meet their system needs. Each channel operates at 64 kbps carrying user information such as voice calls, circuit switched data, or video. A 24 B-channel facility cannot be purchased without at least one 23B+D since the D-channel is required to carry the signaling information for both facilities.

During a promotional period from September 17, 2001 through December 14, 2001 business customers subscribing to a 3 Year Rate Stabilized Agreement for ISDN Primary Rate Service will receive a waiver of the nonrecurring charges associated with the T1 facilities, Service Configurations and ISDN trunk connections. This waiver is available on service ordered during the promotional period and installed by March 17, 2002 and where service is technically feasible and facilities are available.

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.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES D2001.8.118 (Joel)

On August 29, 2001, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application requesting a waiver from Title 49, CFR, Part 192.321(a) of the pipeline safety regulations. This waiver would allow the installation of polyethylene pipe in a steel cased crossing attached, above ground, to a bridge located in the Billings area. This waiver would eliminate the associated maintenance activities, without jeopardizing public safety.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 01-09-18

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2001.8.119 – Qwest Corporation – Qwest/BG Enterprises resale agreement
D2001.9.120 – Montana Power Co – Special request for residential disconnect