

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 01-12-18**

Date Published: December 13, 2001

For Work Week Commencing: December 17, 2001

Business Meeting: December 18, 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. D97.7.90/D2001.1.5/D2001.10.144 – MPC – Placeholder for discussion, possible action on late intervention requests generally. 12/18/01
2. D2001.10.144 – MPC Default Supply – To consider an “own motion” challenge to the proprietary status of certain material under the protective order dated 10-30-01. 12/18/01
3. D2001.10.144 – MPC Default Supply – To act on the request for late intervention filed by the Liberty County Commissioners on behalf of the Liberty County residents and taxpayers. 12/18/01
4. D2001.1.5/D97.7.90 – MPC Sale of MPC to Northwestern/Tier II Docket – To act on Montana Attorney General’s request for late intervention. 12/18/01

5. D2001.12.156 – MPC Gas Tracker – Discuss and act on Interim Order. 12/18/01
6. D96.2.22/D2001.12.156 – MPC Gas Restructuring/Gas Tracker – General discussion, direction, action as necessary. 12/18/01
7. D2000.5.70 – Qwest 271 – To get Commission approval of a Final Report on Qwest's satisfying the Track A requirements of Section 271. 12/18/01
8. D2000.5.70 – Qwest 271 – Discuss/Act on releasing the Final Report on Checklist Items 5 & 6. 12/18/01
9. D2000.5.70 – Qwest 271 - Discuss/act on Final Report on SGAT general terms & conditions 12/18/01
10. D2000.5.70 – Qwest 271 – Discuss/act on staff recommendations concerning Final Report on Checklist Items 1 – Interconnection, 11 – Local Number Portability, and 14 – Resale. 12/18/01

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. MONTANA POWER COMPANY DOCKET NO. D97.11.219 (Eric)

On December 10, 2001, MPC filed two adjustments to its CTC-GP-Credit. This credit rate schedule pertains to certain rate base credits associated with the gas production transition costs. The filing reflects an adjustment of the sales proceeds refund from February 1, 2002, to January 1, 2002 and refunding the balance, including the carrying charge, over 24 months rather than 12 months. The filing also reflects the forecast market for the period that these rates will be in effect, January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002. The old credit amount was (\$1.522). The new credit amount will be (\$.829). Staff recommends that the decrease in the CTC-GP-Credit be approved effective January 1, 2002.

2. CenturyTel Docket N2001.11.157 (Lori)

November 29, 2001 CenturyTel filed Tariff Advise No. 2001-8. The purpose of this filing is to revise the Lifeline section to remove the listing of the actual amount of the Subscriber Line Charge (SLC); language will remain to indicate that the SLC is waived for Tier 1 Federal Lifeline support. CenturyTel proposes this change so that the tariff will not have to be revised in the future when the SLC charge is revised per the FCC order on the Multi-Association Group (MAG) plan, FCC 01-304.

3. Clark Fork Telecommunication Inc. Docket No. N2001.12.160 (Scott)

On December 3, 2001, Clark Fork filed Lifeline Tier 1 compliance filing removal of the Subscriber Line Charge (SLC). In this filing, Clark Fork proposes to revise the tariff to reflect 1) the changes to Tier 1 Lifeline support and 2) removal of the Federal SLC from the tariff. Pursuant to FCC Order 01-304, the FCC dictated certain access charge reform measures for rate-of-return regulated companies. Among the reform measures adopted by the FCC was an increase to the single-line SLC. The SLC is an Interstate end user access charge regulated by the FCC and, as such, is tariffed in the interstate tariff.

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. AT&T Communications Docket No. N2001.12.165 (Scott)

On December 5, 2001, AT& T requested to withdraw its sent-paid coin service within the State of Montana, pursuant to ARM 38.5.2760. Sent-paid coin service is an intrastate long distance service in which the customer initiates the long distance telephone call from a coin operated pay phone, paying for the call in advance with cash, as opposed to utilizing a credit or calling card, third party billing, or other payment. AT & T is requesting to withdraw this service because is used casually by customers and the demand for this service is dwindling rapidly.

2. Project Telephone Company, Docket No. N2001.12.162 (Scott)

On November 27, 2001, Project filed revised tariff sheets for both project Telephone Company and Valley Telecommunications, Inc. In this filing the companies are requesting to provide a new special service called Reserved Number Call Forward. This feature provides users with a reserved number in the central office, which is only used for the purpose of automatically forwarding call to a designated answering location.

3. Qwest Communications, Inc. Docket No. N2001.12.163 (Dave B)

On December 6, 2001 Qwest Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 01-38, proposing two business promotions. In the first promotion, new or existing business customers who purchase CustomChoice For Business or a Qwest Business Line Plus will be given a \$50.00 rebate after they have had service for 60 days. Only one rebate will be provided per account.

The second promotion, existing business customers who purchase an additional flat-rate business line, CustomChoice For Business, an additional analog Centrex 21 line, an additional Qwest Business Line Plus line or a Qwest Utility Line will receive a waiver of the nonrecurring charge

associated with the installation of the line. The waiver will apply to one line per account.

The effective date for these two promotions for business customers is from January 7, 2002 through March 29, 2002.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 02-1-3

New Filings Received in Past Week

- D2001.12.156 Montana Power Company - (1) Unreflected Gas Cost Account Balance and Projected Gas Cost; and (2) Gas Transportation Adjustment Clause Balance (Annual Gas Tracker)
- D2001.12.161 PSC vs. Business Savings Plan - Slamming Complaint - 2nd docket for additional complaints
- N2001.12.162 Project Telephone & Valley Telecommunications - Tariff Filing - Reserved Number Call Forward
- N2001.12.163 Qwest - Tariff Transmittal 01-38 – “Business Promotions”
- N2001.12.164 Citizens - MT 01-11 - Tariff Revision - include Federal Lifeline Telephone Service credits in Montana Telephone Assistance (Lifeline) Program
- N2001.12.165 AT&T - Application to Withdraw Sent-Paid Coin Service
- D2001.12.166 Montana-Dakota Utilities - Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment Change