

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 04-03-11**

Date Published: March 4, 2004

For Work Week Commencing: March 8, 2004

Commission Meeting: **Thursday** March 11, 2004, 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 Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. 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.*

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

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

1. CENTURYTEL OF MONTANA N2004.2.27 (Leroy)

On February 20, 2004 CenturyTel of Montana filed P.S.C. MONT. No. 12, adding a new packaged service called Select Pak/Business Assist Select. Simple Choice One and Simple Choice Two have been grandfathered and Simple Choice with Voice Mail has been renamed Simple Choice for residential customers and Business Assist Advantage for business customers. CenturyTel is requesting an effective date of March 22, 2004. Staff recommends approval.

2. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION N2004.2.29 (Leroy)

On February 23, 2004, MCI filed Transmittal Letter 04-04 revising its Montana Tariff No. 2. The purpose of the filing is to: Introduce Basic Calling Plan CC; Grandfather Basic Calling Plans W, X, and AAA; Add language to the dial-1 section of Advanced Option II for Small Business Savings Plan XV; Add residential data usage restriction language to Basic Calling Plan AAA and Basic Calling Plan Y; and introduce the following promotions: Small Business Term Plan Promotion 3; Small Business Term Plan Promotion 4; Small Business Term Plan Promotion 5; One Month Free Promotion, Integrated Service Discount Promotion; and Integrated Service \$25 Prepaid Card Promotion. MCI is requesting a March 1, 2004 effective date. Staff recommends approval.

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

1. D2003.12.170, et al. – PSC, et al. – Western Montana EAS. (3/11/04)
2. D2004.2.23 – Montana Independent Telecommunication Systems/Montana Telecommunication Association – Rulemaking Petition, Eligible Telecommunications Public Interest Rules. (3/11/04)
3. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to Get Direction on Any Matter Related to the Bankruptcy. (3/11/04)

**Other Meetings**

**1:30 p.m. (Tentative) – 3/11/03 – NorthWestern Energy Procurement Plan**

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

**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. NorthWestern Energy – D96-2-22, Order No. 5898h (Dave B)

On March 1, 2004, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed a request to collect \$819,915 which NWE over credited to customers. NWE proposes to collect this amount by reflecting it as an offset in the CTC-GP-Credit, which was originally used to give customers the Sales Proceeds Credit beginning in February 2001. The CTC-GP-Credit is analyzed as part of the CTC-GP-RA Credit annual adjustment filing which will be made in March and have an April 1, 2004 effective date. Commission approval will allow NWE to collect this balance over a one-year period, however, the balance will be monitored and collection will stop at the time the balance is fully exhausted.

2. ENERGY WEST Inc D2004.3.30 (Eric)

On March 1, 2004, EW filed an application seeking approval of a credit agreement between EW and LaSalle Bank National Association and approval of additional liens to the trustees for holders of EW's long-term debt. The Company's current line of credit requires the Company to refinance \$8,000,000 of the currently authorized \$23,000,000 to reduce the maximum credit under the current line of credit to \$15,000,000. \$6,000,000 will be converted to a senior term loan which will have a five-year term. \$2,000,000 will a bridge facility which must be refinanced in six months with that amount of new equity.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D2004.3.30 – Energy West – Applications for Issuance of Securities

N2004.3.31 – Sempra Energy Trading Co – Electricity Supplier License Application