

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 09-03-24**

Date Published: March 19, 2009  
For Work Week Commencing: March 23, 2009  
Commission Meeting: March 24, 2009, 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://www.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. NORTHWESTERN ENERGY D97.11.219 (Eric)

On March 6, 2009, NWE filed its semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a. This filing is made by NWE in its role as servicer of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds. If the previous six-month period variance between the scheduled debt service and the actual amounts available to satisfy the scheduled debt service for such period exceeds 2 percent NWE is required to apply for adjustment to the Fixed Transition Amount (FTA) charges. The variance for the period was an over collection of 0.75 percent or \$33,661. An increase in FTA-GP, FTA-RA (Core), FTA-RA (Utility) and FTA-RA (Non-Core) rates is necessary based on future payment obligations and projected market load. The new FTA rates should ensure enough funds are collected to make the next principal and interest payment. Staff recommends that the changes in the FTA charges and credits be approved effective April 1, 2009. **Probable Motion:** Approve NWE's requested rate changes for the semi-annual true-up of the Natural Gas Transition Bonds.

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

1. Placeholder - D2008.9.111 – Commission Initiated – Commission Investigation of Alltel's Compliance with ETC Designation Requirements – Discuss Alltel's objections to Commission data requests. (3/24/09)
2. Northwest Power & Conservation Council's Conservation Resources Advisory Committee (CRAC) – Consider and act on staff participation in CRAC. (3/24/09)
3. N2008.8.101 – NWE – Medical Emergency Rule Application/Payment Arrangements – Request Commission intervention in establishment of a customer payment arrangement. (3/24/09)
4. N2008.8.102 – NWE - Medical Emergency Rule Application/Payment Arrangements – Request Commission intervention in establishment of a customer payment arrangement. (3/24/09)
5. D2007.7.79 – MDU – Electric Rate Case – Discuss and act on MDU's request for extension of the 4/22/09 deadline for MDU to submit a cost of

- service/rate design filing that also addresses several reserved additional issues as directed in Order 6846f. (3/24/09)
6. Out of state staff travel – Obtain approval for travel request – Jim Paine, Telecommunications Law: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference April 16-17 in Seattle, WA. (3/24/09)
  7. Legislative – Discuss bills relevant to PSC mission, statutory authority, administrative process and general agency concern's; consider staff analysis and recommendations; provide direction on PSC response to bills. (3/24/09)
  8. **3/23/09 – 8:30 a.m.** – Legislative - Discuss bills relevant to PSC mission, statutory authority, administrative process and general agency concern's; consider staff analysis and recommendations; provide direction on PSC response to bills. (3/23/09) (Commission Conference Room – live web audio feed – not archived)

### **Other Meetings**

Weekly Scheduling, Review of Monthly Calendars, and Docket Status Updates (if requested by a Commissioner).

**Notice of Outside Meeting** (which 3 or more Commissioners may attend)

**Wednesday, 3/25/09, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – NorthWestern Energy's Leadership NorthWestern meeting (Carroll College)**

**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. Frontier Communications N2009.3.35 (Gary)

On March 18, 2009 Citizens Telecommunications Company d/b/a as Frontier Communications of Montana (Frontier) filed for Commission approval an Individual Case Basis (ICB) Agreement between Frontier and the Troy Public Schools. Frontier filed cost support information. The ICB is the result of Frontier reaching an agreement with Troy Public Schools to provide telecommunications services within Frontier's incumbent territory.

2. Central Montana Communications N2009.3.33 (Scott)

On March 13, 2009, Central Montana Communications (CMC) requested changes in its tariff. The change CMC is requesting is to shorten the construction footage length relative to the length of service contract the customer must sign.

3. CenturyTel N2009.3.34 (Scott)

On March 13, 2009, CenturyTel filed advice No. 09-01. The purpose of this filing is to introduce Business Emergency Line Service as a new offering. The Company requests an effective date of April 13, 2009.

**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.

**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**

N2009.3.32 – Wettington Water District, Inc. – Proposed Tariff Changes  
 N2009.3.33 – Central Montana Communications, Inc. – Construction – New Service – One Applicant  
 N2009.3.34 – CenturyTel of Montana, Inc. d/b/a CenturyTel – Advice No.09-01 – Business Emergency Line Service

N2009.3.35 – Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana d/b/a Frontier Communications of Montana – Advice Letter No. MT-09-03 – Individual Case Basis Agreement

N2009.3.36 – Qwest Corporation and RBC Capital Markets Corporation – Individual Case Basis Agreement