

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, August 8, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Rowe were absent, but left their votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE
Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(312) In the matter of CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. - Docket N97.7.123; Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana has filed an Application for Approval of Detariffed New Services - Customized Local Area Signaling Service (CLASS). Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the application. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

(313) In the matter of MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.7.122; MCI has filed changes to its tariff to enable customers of MCI's interstate offering of Asia Plan to receive Option Y (homeMCI One) usage rates for intrastate calls made under that plan; and to make a text change, revising the tariff page number from revised page 1 to revised page 2 for MCI transmittal number 97-11. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the tariff changes. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

(314) In the matter of MDU Resources Group, Inc. - Docket D97.7.121; On July 14, 1997, MDU filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$60,000,000 of Common Stock within a two year period in one or more transactions. The use of this stock will be for the acquisition of a business and/or its assets and may be issued directly to a seller. Alternatively, the additional Common Stock may be issued and sold in one or more public offerings. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve Default Order No. 5995. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

(315) In the matter of MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket D97.7.132; On July 25, 1997, MPC filed an application seeking authority to enter into an operating lease with respect to the acquisition and installation of an automated meter reading system. The total cost including installation costs and transaction costs will not exceed \$20,000,000. MPC will retain the tax benefits associated with ownership of the assets, including depreciation and interest deductions. Commissioner Oberg moved to approve Default Order No. 5997. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye..

(316) In two matters listed below, the Commissioners used a single motion as noted:

MONTANA POWER COMPANY-Docket No. D97.7.90; The Commission has received Petitions for Late Intervention from the following:

Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership (YELP)
Montana Society of Association Executives.
Energy West Resources, Inc.
David Ewer

and;

PacifiCorp-Docket No. D97.7.91; The Commission has received Petitions for Late Intervention from the following:

Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
Yellowstone Energy Limited Partnership (YELP)

Applicants for intervention will not delay the proceedings or enlarge the issues. The late interventions resulted from a misperception of the preliminary notice of the filing with the option to file a notice of intention to intervene in order to receive a copy of the transition plan filings promptly.

Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the request for late intervention for the parties in D97.7.90 and D97.7.91. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(317) In the matter of Docket T-97.93.AR - McGree Trucking, Inc., Butte, Montana, PSC No. 9324 has not met Class D carrier requirements, and has submitted a Verified Statement. A determination must be made if the Verified Statement is acceptable for the 1996 annual report filing.

Class D - Garbage and recyclables between all points and places in Powell County.

Carrier is allowed to transport commodities to certified landfills and recycling centers in the State of Montana from territory authorized. Limitations: Transportation is limited to roll-off box service and transfer trailer service to certified landfills and recycling centers.

Commissioner McCaffree moved to accept the verified statement. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(318) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of July 28, 1997. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 5, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson was absent and did not vote on the following items.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Mike Lee

(319) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of flexible pricing to meet competitive pressures in certain exchanges - Docket No. D97.7.125; Commissioner Oberg moved to grant interim approval of the tariff filing for pricing flexibility in Terry and Glendive exchanges. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1. Commissioners Fisher, McCaffree and Oberg voted aye. Commissioner Anderson did not vote, Commissioner Rowe abstained.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Wayne Budt

(320) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of tow truck insurance and requests for modifications; Commissioner McCaffree moved to deny the request of Garage Services, Inc. for modification of the PSC form to include additional language. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which failed 1 to 3. Commissioner McCaffree voted aye. Commissioners Rowe, Oberg and Fisher dissented.

(321) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of tow truck insurance and request for modifications; Commissioner Rowe moved to amend the form as requested by Garage Services, Inc. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed 3 to 1. Commissioners Rowe, Oberg and Fisher voted aye. Commissioner McCaffree dissented.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Dan Elliott, Robin McHugh

(322) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of its budget and out-of-state travel and staffing; Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve out-of-state travel for Joel Tierney and Dennis Crawford to attend Pipeline Safety training. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rowe moved to approve out-of-state travel for Martin Jacobson to attend the DOE/NARUC Natural Gas Conference. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Oberg moved to approve reassignment of a pending open position to economist position. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCaffree, Vice Chair

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 5, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE
Karen Hammel

(323) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of US West Communications, Inc. to Restructure its Prices for Regulated Telecommunications Service - Docket No. D96.12.220; Commissioner Rowe moved to grant the Motion of Montana Consumer Counsel to temporarily suspend the Procedural Schedule in this Docket; and vacate the hearing scheduled for October 29, 1997. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, August 11, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson was absent but left his votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE

Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(324) In the matter of MONTANA POWER COMPANY - Docket N97.7.126; On July 18, 1997, MPC filed its annual updates to the avoided cost rate schedules QFLT-1 and STPP-1 to comply with Order 5017, Docket 83.1.2. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the annual updates. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(325) In the matter of CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.7.133; On July 28, 1997, Citizens Communications filed to remove the end user common line rate from its Montana Access Service Tariff. This rate would then be found only in the company's FCC Tariff No. 1. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the removal of the end user common line rate. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(326) In the matter of VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.6.98; On July 21, 1997, Valley Telecommunications filed to revise its pay phone tariff filing of June 11, 1997. The company had originally requested to withdraw its Paystation Service and Customer-Owned Coin-Operated Telephone Service offerings and replace them with Pay phone Provider Service on a detariffed basis. With the revised filing, the company requests the same changes to its pay phone tariff, but the prices will remain tariffed. Staff recommends approval on an interim basis pending the conclusion of Docket D97.2.33, with the exception that the proposal to eliminate semipublic phone service remain suspended. Commissioner Oberg moved the revised tariff filing per staff recommendation. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(327) In the matter of PROJECT TELEPHONE CO. - Docket N97.6.99; On July 21, 1997, Project Telephone filed to revise its pay phone tariff filing of June 11, 1997. The company had originally requested to withdraw its Paystation Service and Customer-Owned Coin-Operated Telephone Service offerings and replace them

with Pay phone Provider Service on a detariffed basis. With the revised

the company requests the same changes to its pay phone tariff, but the prices will remain tariffed. Staff recommends approval on an interim basis pending the conclusion of Docket D97.2.33, with the exception that the proposal to eliminate semipublic phone service remain suspended. Commissioner McCaffree moved to the revised tariff filing per staff recommendation. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(328) In the matter of COMMNET CELLULAR/USWC - Docket D97.4.64; CommNet Cellular and U S WEST Communications have executed and submitted for approval their negotiated Interconnection Agreement, which must be approved by August 11, 1997, or it will be deemed approved, according to the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The companies agreed to adopt the agreement between Western Wireless and U S WEST in its entirety. At a work session held on June 25, 1997, the Commission directed staff to draft an order approving the interconnection agreement if staff review of the agreement verified that it was identical to the Western Wireless agreement. The agreement is identical to the Western Wireless agreement. Recommend approval of the draft Order Approving Interconnection Agreement. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the negotiated Interconnection Agreement. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(329) In the matter of SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - Docket N97.7.130; On July 24, 1997, Sprint Communications Company filed changes to their price list deleting text and adding verbiage to FONCARD Service which explains how calls will be rated when Sprint enters into an agreement with a reseller to serve as their alternate long distance carrier in regions where the reseller cannot provide service. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the changes as filed. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(330) In the matter of Docket T-97.21.PCN - On May 27, 1997 Gertrude L. Herman dba Taxi, Roundup, Montana filed an application for a Certificate for Public Convenience and Necessary. Parties have stipulated to the following grant of authority:

Class B -Passengers within the City of Roundup, Montana and a fifty (50) miles radius thereof. Limitations: 1) Transportation within Yellowstone County is prohibited, 2) Transportation is restricted to service in vehicles with seating capacity of five (5) people or less.

Commissioner Oberg moved to approve the application. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 12, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioners Anderson and Rowe were absent, but left their votes with the Commission Secretary as noted.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Denise Peterson, Will Rosquist

(331) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's Transition Plan - Docket No. D97.7.90; Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order finding MPC's transition plan inadequate and incomplete as it regards public education and pilot programs as well as certain transition cost issues. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Rowe voted aye via leaving his proxy to Commissioner Anderson.

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson

(332) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Pacific Power & Light - Docket No. D97.7.91; Commissioner McCaffree moved to issue a protective order as requested by PP&L. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson, David Burchett

(333) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Mountain Water - Docket No. D97.6.97; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve a final order approve a stipulated agreement between Mountain Water and Montana Consumer Counsel granting the request in full. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel

(334) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Wireless - Docket No. 97.8.142 - Petition for Arbitration, motion for temporary waiver of rule; Commissioner McCaffree moved to grant the requested waiver. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 12, 1997 the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioners Anderson and Rowe were absent and did not vote on the following items.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Kate Whitney

(335) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of PSC vs. US West Communications and customer information issues related with implementation of measure service tariffs; Commissioner McCaffree moved to direct staff to enter into discussions with USWC regarding a possible settlement of the complaint. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 12, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Danny Oberg, Commissioner

Commissioners Anderson and Rowe were absent, but left their votes with the Commission Secretary as noted.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Denise Peterson, Will Rosquist

(336) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Power Company's Transition Plan - Docket No. D97.7.90; Commissioner Oberg moved to direct staff to draft an order finding MPC's transition plan inadequate and incomplete as it regards public education and pilot programs as well as certain transition cost issues. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye. Commissioner Rowe voted aye via leaving his proxy to Commissioner Anderson.

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson

(337) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Pacific Power & Light - Docket No. D97.7.91; Commissioner McCaffree moved to issue a protective order as requested by PP&L. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson, David Burchett

(338) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Mountain Water - Docket No. D97.6.97; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve a final order approve a stipulated agreement between Mountain Water and Montana Consumer Counsel granting the request in full. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel

(339) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Montana Wireless - Docket No. 97.8.142 - Petition for Arbitration, motion for temporary waiver of rule; Commissioner McCaffree moved to grant the requested waiver. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Wednesday, August 13, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson, Will Rosquist, Mike Lee

(340) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the application of Montana Power Company for approval of its Electric Utility Restructuring Transition Plan filed pursuant to Senate Bill 390; Commissioner Oberg moved to approve Order No. 5986b subject to editing. The Commission finds MPC's plan inadequate and incomplete. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioners Anderson and Rowe voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, August 18, 1997 the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Bob Anderson was absent and left votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE

Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(341) In the matter of Montana Power Company, Docket D97.7.90. Petitions for late intervention have been received by Continental Hydro Corporation and Cenex, Inc. Commissioner Rowe moved to grant late intervention as long as they do not delay proceedings or enlarge the issues. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

(342) In the matter of Pacific Power & Light Company, Docket D97.7.91. A petition for late intervention has been received by Continental Hydro Corporation. Commissioner Rowe moved to grant later intervention as long as they do not delay proceedings or enlarge the issues. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed.

(343) In the matter of Woods Bay Water Company, Docket D97.7.148. On July 17, 1997 customers of Woods Bay Water Company wrote the Commission with complaints about water problems, including low or no pressure, at times no water, and water that is often not drinkable, requiring customers to use bottled water. Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Complaint, with 20 days to answer or file a Notice of Satisfaction. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

(344) In the matter of Montana Power Company's motion to eliminate second round of data requests, Docket D97.7.90. Commissioner Rowe moved to grant Montana Power Company an additional week and to deny the motion. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(345) In the matter of Docket TN1863, Minnie Boothman and Robert E. Lee dba Libby Cab, Libby, Montana requests authorization to continue the lease of PSC No. 8637 to Kerry Lee Resch dba Libby Cab, Libby, Montana for one year August 9, 1997 to August 9, 1998.

Class B - Passengers, baggage and express between all points and places within Lincoln County. Limitations: Transportation of Burlington Northern Railroad crews is prohibited.

Commissioner Rowe moved to continue the lease of PSC No. 8637 for a period of one year. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 19, 1997 the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson was absent and left his votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson

(346) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket D96.2.22, motions and other matters related to Montana Power Company's Natural Gas Utility case; Commissioner Rowe moved to deny Paladin's motion to compel responses to certain data requests. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Denise Peterson

(347) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of complaints by DNRC, CLEP and YELP, all QF facilities against the Montana Power Company, Docket D97.8.143; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Complaint to Montana Power Company on the DNRC complaint. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rowe moved to notice that the Commission will consider the jurisdictional issue over PSC authority on certain QF issues and direct staff to develop an expedited briefing schedule on said legal issues. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson, Kate Whitney

(348) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Energy Utility Service Standards, Docket L97.6.4 RUL; Commissioner Rowe moved to publish proposed rules for adoption as required by MAPA. Commissioner seconded the motion, which failed with a 2 to 3 vote with Commissioners McCaffree and Rowe voting aye and Commissioners Anderson, Fisher and Oberg dissenting.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson

(349) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the Great Falls Gas Company tracking case and the company's request for a protective order, Docket D97.7.119; Commissioner Anderson moved to issue a protective order. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(350) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Orr v Pacific Power & Light over the company's one call response, Docket D97.8.141; Commissioner McCaffree moved to direct the Chair to send a letter to PP&L requesting a

response to allegations by Mr. Orr regarding PP&L's one call responses.
Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(351) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of its budget and out of state travel; Commissioner Anderson moved to authorize out of state travel for two utility staff members to attend the NARUC Subcommittee on Accounts meeting in Portland. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Rowe moved to authorized travel for Mike Sheard to attend the NARUC Annual Convention in Boston. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 19, 1997 the following members were present:

Nancy McCaffree, Acting Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Fisher was absent and left his proxy to Commissioner Oberg

APPEARANCE
Bonnie Lorang, Karen Hammel

(352) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the PTI - Digitrex Plus tariff filing, Docket N97.4.58; Commissioner Rowe moved to direct staff to draft an order approving the tariff filing with certain conditions. Commissioner Oberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Oberg cast Commissioner Fisher vote as "aye".

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

NANCY McCAFFREE, Acting Chair

DAVE FISHER, Commissioner

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Monday, August 15, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Rowe Commissioner

Commissioner Anderson was absent but left his votes with the Commission Secretary. Commissioner Oberg was absent and did not vote on the following items.

APPEARANCE

Dan Elliott, Administrator
Utility Division

(353) In the matter of SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY - Docket N97.8.146; On August 8, 1997, Sprint filed changes to its price list. The changes include: 1. Change the Time-of-Day sensitive rates per minute for their Foncard to non-sensitive Time-of-Day rates, resulting in a rate increase. 2. Revise the Per Call surcharge for Foncard Option B. 3. Decrease the rate per minute for the Stand-Alone Foncard. 4. Add a Per Call surcharge to the Stand-Alone Foncard. 5. Decrease the Per Call Pay phone Service Charge. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the changes to the prices list. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(354) In the matter of MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION - Docket N97.8.144; On August 7, 1997, MCI filed tariff pages to change the deferral to MCI's FCC tariff for Advanced Option 1 to a state specific rate. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the state specific rate. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(355) In the matter of PTI COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N97.8.150; On August 13, 1997, PTI proposed to extend through September 30, 1997, a residential second-line promotion waiving the non-recurring charge that was originally approved through August 22. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the promotion. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(356) In the matter of Citizens Communications Docket N97.8.149; On August 12, 1997, Citizens Communications filed revised tariff pages to the Montana Access Service Tariff, pursuant to Order 5988, Docket D97.3.48. The filing introduces the terms, conditions, and rates of the presubscription for intraLATA and interLATA equal access 1+ dialing. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the revised tariff pages. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(357) In the matter of MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. - Docket D97.8.138; On August 4, 1997, MDU filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$40,000,000 of short-term debt, at any one time, in the form of promissory notes pursuant to a revolving credit agreement. The term of the new revolving credit agreement will be five years. The proceeds will be used to partially finance general corporate needs. A Default Order has been drafted. Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the application. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(358) In the matter of MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. - Docket D97.8.139; On August 4, 1997, MDU filed an application seeking authority to issue not to exceed \$45,000,000 of (1) one or more series of its first mortgage bonds, (2) secured medium term notes, and/or (3) senior notes secured by MDU's first mortgage bonds. The proceeds will be used to partially finance general corporate needs. A Default Order has been drafted. Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the application. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(359) In the matter of Docket T-97.85.OTSC - Edwin L. Maughan dba Maughan's Transfer, Ronan, Montana requests reconsideration of the cancellation of PSC No. 4326, Cancellation Order No. 6430. The authority was cancelled on July 28, 1997 for failure to comply with vehicle registration requirements. Carrier has now supplied proof of vehicle registration.

Class C - Property within the town of Ronan, Montana and to or from points tributary hereto, but within a distance not exceeding fifty miles in any direction from said town.

Limitations: Transportation of ashes, trash, waste, refuse, rubbish and garbage is prohibited. Such operations are not to interfere with existing motor carriers.

Commissioner moved to grant reconsideration of the cancellation order and grant reinstatement of PSC No. 4326. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(360) In the matter of Docket T-97.90.RI - On July 14, 1997, Montana Tariff Bureau, Agent, Helena, Montana 59624 (for and on behalf of Baker Transfer & Storage Co., Billings, Montana, in an independent action) filed a request for increased Distance Commodity Rates of 10%. This increase would only apply when other carriers, booking agents, brokerage firms or others not holding Montana intrastate household goods operating authority tender third party shipments with the understanding that they expect a commission or fee for their participation.

No protests were received. The rate increase will become September 1, 1997.

Commissioner McCaffree moved to grant the rate increase. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(361) In the matter of TN1864 - Johnnie M. Cook dba Lincoln County Medical Transport, Libby, Montana, requests permission to suspend PSC No. 9364 for a final 6 month period, September 17, 1997 to March 17, 1998.

Class B - Nonemergency medical and psychiatric patients to and from medical appointments at health care facilities within the following counties: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula, and Sanders. Limitations: Transportation must originate or terminate in Lincoln County.

Class B - Passengers, baggage and express between all points and places in Lincoln and Sanders Counties. Limitations: Transportation of railway crews is prohibited. Transportation by limousine is prohibited.

Commissioner Rowe moved to suspend PSC No. 9364 for a period of six months.
Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

APPEARANCE
Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(362) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner McCaffree moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the weeks of August 4, 11 and 18, 1997. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

(363) In the matter of the approval of the October, 1997 Calendar; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the October calendar. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Anderson voted aye.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, August 26, 1997, the following members were present:

Dave Fisher, Chairman
Nancy McCaffree, Vice Chair
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Danny Oberg, Commissioner
Bob Rowe Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Karen Hammel, Mike Sheard

(364) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of a proceeding to choose a Universal Service Cost Model; Commissioner Oberg moved to initiate a universal service cost docket, issue a notice, deadline for intervention and attorney's conference to develop a procedural schedule. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(365) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of eligible carrier designation and service area designation as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 - Docket Nos. N96.2.18, N96.2.23, N96.3.44, N96.4.59 and N96.4.58; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Commission Action inviting comments on designation of eligible carrier designation and service area designation as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Said notice shall grant interim approval of all incumbents and consolidate US West Communication issues in this proceeding. Commissioner McCaffree seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)