

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on September 22, 2003, the following members were present:

Bob Rowe, Chairman  
Thomas J. Schneider, Vice Chairman  
Matt Brainard, Commissioner  
Greg Jergeson, Commissioner  
Jay Stovall, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Marla Larson, Al Brogan

(380) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of D2003.8.120 – Montana-Dakota Utilities Increased Rate for Electric Service:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to issue a Notice of Commission Action concerning MDU' s apparent failure to meet minimum filing requirements under ARM 38.5.176(1)(b), with an October 2, 2003, reply date. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
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 September 23, 2003, the following members were present:

Bob Rowe, Chairman  
Thomas J. Schneider, Vice Chairman  
Matt Brainard, Commissioner  
Greg Jergeson, Commissioner  
Jay Stovall, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator  
Utility Division

(381) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes: Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the Commission minutes for the week of September 15, 2003. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck

(382) In the matter of Docket No. D97.11.219 – Northwestern Energy: On September 9, 2003, NWE filed its ninth 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 overcollection of 8.77 percent or \$336,933. The variance was a result of higher actual collections versus the prior estimated collections. The new decreased FTA rates include the overcollection.

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the changes in the FTA charges effective October 1, 2003. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Joel Tierney

(383) In the matter of Docket No. D2003.9.128 – Yellowstone Pipeline: On September 4, 2003, Yellowstone Pipeline Co. filed an application to decrease rates by 20% of the 53% increase granted to cover increased power costs in March of 2001. Yellowstone has requested an October 1, 2003 effective date.

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve Yellowstone Pipeline's request effective October 1, 2003. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel

(384) In the matter of Docket No. N2003.9.127 - Qwest Communications: On September 3, 2003, Qwest filed tariff transmittal 03-33, Grandfather SWITCHNET 56. The purpose of this filing is to discontinue offering SWITCHNET 56 service to new customers and to grandfather existing SWITCHNET 56 customers.

Commissioner Stovall moved to approve Qwest' s filing. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Mike Morris

(385) In the matter of the Commission' s discussion of D2002.11.145 – Northern Telephone Cooperative Association, Inc.

Commissioner Schneider moved to adopt staff recommendations to place Northern' s EAS petition in abeyance and suspend the 90-day deadline indefinitely, with 120-day incremental status reports from Northern. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(386) In the matter of the Commission' s discussion of Northwest Energy' s bankruptcy:

Commissioner Schneider moved to authorize Robin McHugh to complete negotiations and discussion with outside counsel and retain outside counsel with initial use of consulting monies in the PSC budget. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schneider also moved to authorize staff to complete negotiations and enter into a provisional contract with the financial consultants and incorporate with MCC, and South Dakota and Nebraska to the extent they wish to participate. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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BOB ROWE, Chairman

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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GREG JERGSON, Commissioner

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JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)