

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 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
Leroy Beeby
Utility Division

(260) In the matter of Valley Telecommunications, Inc. N2003.12.167.: On Dec. 4, 2003, Valley Telecommunications submitted revised tariffs reducing the monthly toll restriction rates to \$0.85. Previous monthly rates were between \$1.50 and \$5.00. The revised tariff adds to a definition for Toll Restriction and clarifies the Terms and Conditions. Toll restriction will be provided at no charge to qualifying low income subscribers, as well as company initiated toll restriction. The tariff deletes the Direct Distance Dialing description since that service is included in the Full Toll Restriction descriptions.

Commissioner Jergeson moved to revise tariffs. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(261) In the matter of Project Telecommunications Company N2003.12.168; On December 4, 2003, Project Telephone Company submitted revised tariffs reducing the monthly toll restriction rates to \$0.85. Previous monthly rates were between \$1.50 and \$5.00. The revised tariff adds a definition for Toll Restriction and clarifies the Terms and Conditions. Toll restriction will be provided at no charge to qualifying low income subscribers, as well as company initiated toll restriction. The tariff deletes the Direct Distance Dialing description since that service is included in the Full Toll Restriction descriptions.

Commissioner Jergeson moved to pass revised tariffs reducing monthly toll restriction rates. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(262) In the matter of Sprint Communications Company L.P. Montana, Docket No. N2003.12.171: On December 9, 2003, Sprint Communications filed changes in its current price list reflected on the 207th Revised page 1. The purpose of the filing is to introduce Sprint Business Flex with All Calls All Day III and IV, make miscellaneous text changes and reduce FONCARD Surcharge for Sprint Business Flex with All Calls All Day V, VI, and VII. Sprint is requesting an effective date of December 16, 2003.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve Sprint text changes. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Scott Fabel
Utility Division

(263) In the matter of Sprint Communications Docket No. N2003.12.169: On December 5, 2003, Sprint filed changes to its price List No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to make changes to the terms and conditions for Dial-1 WATS.

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the changes. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which

passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation/Centralized Services

(264) In the matter of Docket No. T-03.53.PCN - On November 20, 2003, a Temporary Operating Authority was granted to Brian David Parks, dba Medicab, Missoula, Montana. The temporary grant was for an initial 30 days. The applicant is requesting a 90 day extension to that Temporary Authority.

Commissioner Brainard moved to grant a 90 day extension to the Temporary Operating Authority. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(265) In the matter of Docket No. TN2203 - UG, Inc. dba Capitol Taxi, Helena, Montana requests permission to suspend PSC No. 9441 for a final six month period, December 24, 2003 to June 24, 2004.

Commissioner Schneider moved to grant the suspension. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(266) In the matter of Docket No. TN2204 - James A. Jones dba Oilfield Maintenance Company, Gillette, Wyoming, requests permission to continue the lease of PSC No. 9297 to Kenneth W. Griffith dba Ken Griffith Excavating, Baker, Montana for a one year period, December 28, 2003 to December 28, 2004.

Commissioner Brainard moved to continue the lease of PSC No. 9297. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(267) In the matter of Commission Minutes: Commissioner Brainard moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of December 15, 2003. Commissioner Jergeson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson

(268) In the matter of the Commission’s discussion of Western Montana Local Calling Coalition application for EAS - Docket No. D2003.12.170:

Commissioner Schneider moved to issue a broad notice combining community of interest and cost analysis rate design allowing 135 days. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Monica Tranel

(269) In the matter of the Commission’s discussion of QCC calling card tariff - Docket No. N2003.12.176, as if 12/31/03, Touch America will no longer carry calling card calls from out of state customers for QCC; QCC needs a tariff in place to handle this traffic:

Commission Jergeson moved to approve QCC’s tariff request subject to objections being filed on or before January 9, 2004. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

270) In the matter of the Commission’s discussion of Rulemaking – Intercarrier compensation rules, Docket No. L-03.2-RUL, to discuss adoption of rules to implement HB 641 on Intercarrier compensation:

Commissioner Schneider moved to certify rules to implement HB 641 on Inter-carrier compensation and file with the Secretary of States Office. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Leroy Beeby

(271) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Energy West's Property Tax Tracker, Docket No. D2003.12.165:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to issue an Opportunity for Public Comment within 30 days on the proposed increase, after which Energy West should amend their tariff and also file rate schedules that more accurately reflect a maximum revenue requirement of \$455,052. He also moved that EW file rate schedules separately disclosing the adjustments for property taxes. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh

(272) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy financial investigation – to approve draft supplemental order, Docket No. D2003.8.109:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to issue a draft order to amend the scope of financial investigation and approve the supplemental order consistent with Montana Consumer Counsel's recommendations, to be circulated for edits by commissioners. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation/Centralized Services

(273) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Budget and Personnel to rewrite the job description for and moving position #51 to the broadband pay plan:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to authorize position #51 be moved to the broadband pay plan and to take any additional steps necessary in the process. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

BOB ROWE, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)