

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 14, 2010, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chair
Ken Toole, Vice Chair
Gail Gutsche, Commissioner
Brad Molnar, Commissioner
John Vincent, Commissioner, via telephone

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator
Regulatory Division

(384) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of November 29, 2010.

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of November 29, 2010. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Eric Eck, Regulatory Division

(385) In the matter of D2010.11.110: On November 29, 2010, NorthWestern Corporation filed an application seeking authority to issue over a two-year period through and including December 31, 2012, some or all of the following kinds of securities not to exceed in the aggregate \$850 million.

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE NorthWestern Corporation's application to issue up to \$850 million in securities over a two-year period ending December 31, 2012, with changes recommended by Sarah Norcott of our legal staff. Commissioner Gutsche seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Joel Tierney, Regulatory Division

(386) In the matter of N2005.8.117: On November 24, 2010, POWEREX requested the Commission cancel its gas supplier license.

Commissioner Gutsche moved to APPROVE POWEREX's application to cancel its gas supplier license in Docket No. N2005.8.117. Commissioner Toole seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Gary Duncan, Regulatory Division
Jim Paine, Legal Division

(387) In the matter of the Commission's discussion in Docket No. D2010.5.55: CenturyLink/Qwest Merger. Draft Final Order.

Commissioner Toole moved to APPROVE the draft final order with the recommendation to strike paragraph 59 and replace with "Require CenturyLink to file a general rate case by July 2013 with a 2012 test year" in Docket No. D2010.5.55. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator
Regulatory Division
Staci Litschauer, Administrator
Centralized Services

(388) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Fiscal note requests procedures. Kate and Staci discussed the impact of fiscal note requests and how the fiscal notes should be addressed by the staff and commission. Discussion only, no action taken.

APPEARANCE

Staci Litschauer, Administrator
Centralized Services
Robin McHugh, Executive Director

(389) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Agency Strike Plan. Strike plan options and incorporating final version in the agency operations manual (Blue Book). Staff will research and reschedule for next week. Discussion only; no action taken.

(390) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Operations manual (Blue Book) revisions. Discussion only; no action taken. Defer review of the operations manual revisions to next work session.

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

W. A. GALLAGHER, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

GAIL GUTSCHE, Commissioner

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner

JOHN VINCENT, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Verna Stewart
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)