

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on October 20, 2015, the following members were present:

Brad Johnson, Chairman  
Travis Kavulla, Vice Chairman      via phone  
Kirk Bushman, Commissioner      via phone  
Roger Koopman, Commissioner  
Bob Lake, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Aleisha Solem, Commission Secretary

(272) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes for the week of October 12, 2015.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE the Commission Minutes for the week of October 12, 2015. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Brenda Koch, Transportation Unit

(273) In the matter of TN2640: Kurtz Sanitation, Inc.'s request to continue the lease of PSC No. 9495 to Miles City Sanitation from October 14, 2015 to October 14, 2016.

Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE the lease of PSC No. 9495. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Brenda Koch, Transportation Unit

(274) In the matter of TN2641: The estate of Thomas F. Kenneally's request to continue the lease of PSC No. 4448 to the McGree Corporation from October 12, 2015 to October 12, 2016.

Commissioner Koopman moved to APPROVE the continued lease of PSC No. 4448. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Justin Kraske, Administrator, Legal Division  
Joel Tierney, Regulatory Division

(275) In the matter of BTU monitoring contracts.

Commissioner Lake moved to APPROVE issuing the contracts. Commissioner Koopman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist, Acting Administrator, Regulatory Division  
Jason Brown, Legal Division

(276) In the matter of D2011.5.41: NorthWestern Energy's application for approval to purchase and operate the Spion Kop Wind Project.

Commissioner Koopman moved to ISSUE an order granting NorthWestern's request to remove Spion Kop PTCs from a fixed rate to a variable rate including it in the monthly supply trackers, and including language in the order about the continued issues of over collection of past PTCs. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Commissioner Kavulla

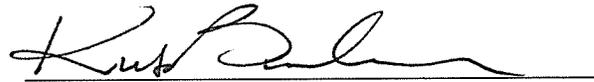
(277) In the matter of 2015 appraisal and resulting property tax liability.

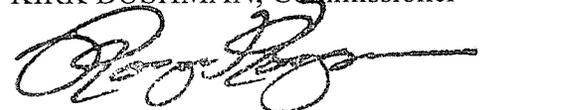
Commissioner Kavulla moved to APPROVE opening a docket to receive information from NorthWestern Energy and others about the significant increase in valuation and resultant property taxes based on the 2015 Department of Revenue valuation; including what NorthWestern is doing to contain its tax liability; considering requirements for NorthWestern to disclose information to its consumers about its tax liability; and to receive NorthWestern's annual tax tracker filing and any other tax filing pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. 69-3-308 and other requirements of the Commission. Commissioner Lake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

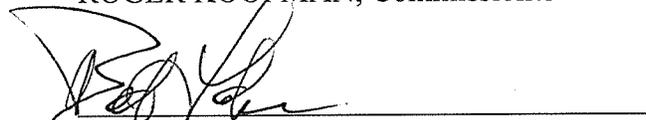
There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

  
BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman

  
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman

  
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

  
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner

  
BOB LAKE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Aleisha Solem  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)