

# WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell  
Commissioner Robin Sessions Cooley

Steve Hawkins, Facilities Manager, Gros Ventre Utility Company (by telephone)  
Guy Evans, General Manager, Gros Ventre Utility Company (by telephone)  
Alex Klein, Vice President, Gros Ventre Utility Company (by telephone)  
Bruce Asay, Associated Legal Group, LLC

Commission Staff (CS): John Burbridge, Melisa Mizel and Katie Koski

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 30005-224-GA-17 (Record No. 14672) Application of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power d/b/a Black Hills Energy for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate high-pressure gas transmission pipelines and related facilities in Laramie County, Wyoming. Commission to consider and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Exhibits 3, 5A, 5B, 8 and 10 to Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Petition)* filed on March 24, 2017.**

Chairman Russell introduced the consent item. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Petition* by *Order* only, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

## REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 80013-4-WT-16 (Record No. 14516). Tariff filing of Gros Ventre Utility Company, pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations, effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on filing.** Melisa Mizel, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated March 28, 2017. Steve Hawkins, Gros Ventre's Facilities Manager, provided a brief description of the application and gave a brief history of Gros Ventre. He also explained that the curb stop valve language provided in the proposed tariff application is the current understanding of the utility's customers, and not a new condition. There were no further questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application by *Order* only, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
2. **Docket No. 70005-42-TT-17 (Record No. 14647). Tariff filing of Chugwater Telephone for authority to make changes to the FCC Lifeline Rules Tariff. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated March 29, 2017. Bruce Asay, Chugwater Telephone's Counsel, explained this application is to change its Lifeline tariff to comply with the recent Lifeline Modernization order from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He said the tariff now references and recognizes the change in FCC qualification requirements for the program which has been expanded to include certain broadband service. He noted that Chugwater

Telephone does not currently have any Lifeline customers. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, confirmed with Mr. Asay that notice of the revision will take place through bill inserts which is consistent with Wyoming law. There were no further questions or comments. Ms. Koski recommended approval of the application and tariff filing, by *Notice and Order*, with notice to take place by bill insert, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, April 6, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on May 11, 2017.

---

Chairman William F. Russell

# **WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting  
Thursday, April 6, 2017  
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell  
Deputy Chair Kara Brighton Fornstrom  
Commissioner Robin Sessions Cooley

Bruce Asay, Associated Legal Group, LLC, Counsel for Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Tamie Aberle, Director of Regulatory Affairs, MDU (by telephone)

Darcy Neigum, Director of Electric System Operations and Planning, MDU (by telephone)

Jane France, Sundahl, Powers, Kapp & Martin, LLC, Counsel for Wyoming Gas Company and NG Transmission (Joint Applicants)

John Sundahl, Sundahl, Powers, Kapp & Martin, LLC, Counsel Joint Applicants (by telephone)

Leslie Graham, General Manager, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)

Janeen Capshaw, Executive Vice President, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)

Anne Gabel Wheatcroft, Controller, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)

Thomas Sullivan, Navillus Utility Consulting LLC, Expert Witness (by telephone)

Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA): Ivan Williams, Belinda Kolb, and Anthony Ornelas

Commission Staff (CS): Dave Walker, Morgan Fish, Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland, Luy Luong, Katie Koski, John Burbridge, Chris Petrie, and Lori L. Brand

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Docket Nos. 30009-60-GR-16 and 50051-2-PR-16 (Record No. 14566). Application of Wyoming Gas Company for a general rate increase of \$473,219 per annum, to amend its Rules and Regulations and to conform its tariffs pursuant to Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016, and the Joint Application of Wyoming Gas Company and NG Transmission for authority to merge and for NG Transmission to discontinue utility service currently offered to the public. Commission to consider and act on Wyoming Gas Company's *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Gas Sales Agreement Between Crown Cork & Seal USA Inc. and Natural Gas Processing Co.* filed on March 20, 2017, and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Certain Data Responses and Exhibits, Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits and Supporting Workpapers* filed on March 23, 2017 (*Petitions*).**

Chairman Russell introduced the consent item. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Petitions* by *Letter Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy

Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Docket No. 20004-121-EK-16 (Record No. 14577). Small Qualified Facility Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., and the City of Sheridan. Commission to consider acceptance of the PPA for filing.** Dave Walker and Morgan Fish, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated March 31, 2017. Bruce Asay, MDU's Counsel, explained MDU entered into a small qualified facility PPA with the City of Sheridan. Sheridan is installing a 240 kWh hydro-electric generator and MDU will purchase the total energy output of the facility. Tamie Aberle, MDU's Director of Regulatory further explained that this is the first hydro-generator qualifying facility on its system. There were no further questions or comments. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, commented the agreement complied with Commission Rules. She recommended acceptance of the contract for filing by *Letter Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
  
2. **Docket Nos. 30009-60-GR-16 and 50051-2-PR-16 (Record No. 14566). Application of Wyoming Gas Company for a general rate increase of \$473,219 per annum, to amend its Rules and Regulations, and to conform its Tariffs pursuant to Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016, and the Joint Application of Wyoming Gas Company and NG Transmission for authority to merge and for NG Transmission to discontinue utility service currently offered to the public. Commission to:**
  - a. **Determine whether the Joint Applicant's Supplement to Joint Application of March 23, 2017, constitutes a material or substantial alteration to the application pursuant to Commission Rule Chapter 2 Section 11(e);**
  - b. **Consider vacating the existing procedural schedule and hearing date;**
  - c. **Consider requiring the Joint Applicants to file an amended application explicitly addressing any material or substantial alterations to the application; and,**
  - d. **To take such further action as the public interest may require.**

Dave Walker, Morgan Fish, Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland, and Luy Luong, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 5, 2017. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, explained the Supplement filing, Rebuttal Testimony and Responses to Commission Information Requests amounted to material changes to the case. John Sundahl, Joint Applicants' Counsel, said his clients did not agree with the CS assessment. However, Mr. Sundahl said the Joint Applicants did not object to re-noticing the matter. Ivan Williams said the OCA has questions with regard to the industrial rate in the rebuttal filing and its relation to existing cost of service. Mr. Williams also said the OCA has concerns about further delays to a rate reduction for customers and the risk that OCA's return analysis may become stale.

Ms. Brand recommended:

- a. The Commission make a determination there is a material change in the application. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
- b. The Commission vacate the existing procedural schedule/hearing date. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
- c. The Company file an amended application addressing alterations to the application within 60 days or in the alternative, recognize the Supplement resets the procedural clock. Deputy Chair Fornstrom stated her preference is to start a new procedural clock on the date of the Supplement filing. Chairman Russell agreed, but encouraged the Company to address the material change issues satisfactorily so they can be ruled on at the hearing. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to start the procedural clock at the filing date of the Supplement, but said the Commission will reconsider if the parties cannot resolve the issues. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on May 16, 2017.

---

Chairman William F. Russell

# **WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell  
Deputy Chair Kara Brighton Fornstrom  
Commissioner Robin Sessions Cooley

Heather McDowell, Associate General Counsel, Black Hills Energy (BHE)  
(by telephone)

Jason Keil, Manager, Regulatory, BHE (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Kara Seveland, Katie Koski

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Docket No. 20003-158-EK-17 (Record No. 14665). Contract filing of Business Development Agreement between Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy and Green House Data. Commission to consider acceptance of the contract for filing and consider and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Portions of Business Development Agreement (Petition.)*** Kara Seveland, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 5, 2017.

Chairman Russell introduced the consent item. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended accepting the contract for filing and granting the *Petition* by *Letter Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on May 11, 2017.

---

Chairman William F. Russell

# **WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting  
Thursday, April 27, 2017  
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell  
Commissioner Robin Sessions Cooley

O'Kelley Pearson, Counsel, City of Torrington  
Autumn Aspen, Counsel, City of Torrington  
David Hedrick, Senior Vice President, CH Guernsey (by telephone)  
Mike Varney, Mayor, City of Torrington by telephone  
Lynette Strecker, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Torrington (by telephone)  
Tre Hendricks, Senior Corporate Counsel, CenturyLink of the West (by telephone)  
Margaret McGill, Regulatory, Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power (by telephone)  
James M. Elliott, Regulatory, Black Hills Northwest Wyoming Gas Utility Co. (by telephone)  
Travis Jacobson, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): John Burbridge, Steve Mink, Luy Luong, Morgan Fish, Rachel Meeker, Kara Seveland

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Undocketed. Minutes for review from Open Meeting of March 21, 2017, as prepared by Barbara Tomlinson.**
2. **Docket No. 30010-155-GP-16 (Record No. 14553). Application of Questar Gas Company requesting authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.33681 per dekatherm for all firm retail rate classes. Commission to consider and act on:**
  - a. *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Overland Consulting Report* filed October 17, 2016; and
  - b. *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Questar Gas Company's Responses to Commission Investigative Requests 3.01, 3.02, and 3.11* filed April 20, 2017. (*Petitions*).
3. **Docket No. 10020-59-CK-16 (Record No. 14596) Contract filing of High Plains Power, Inc. Commission to consider and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Response to Request for Supplement Information* (*Petition*).**
4. **Docket No. 20003-156-EP-17 (Record No. 14649). Application of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy for authority to increase its Power Cost Adjustment by \$0.00468 per kWh for the period April 1, 2017, through March**

**31, 2018. Commission to consider issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing.***

- 5. Docket No. 12000-23-CP-17 (Record No. 14668). Application of the City of Torrington for authority to pass-on a power cost adjustment of \$0.00363 per kWh sold for the period of April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, to its consumers in the territory of Goshen County. Commission to consider and act on *Motion to Allow David W. Hedrick to Adopt Testimony of Judy K. Lambert.***

Commissioner Cooley introduced the consent items. For item #1, Commissioner Cooley moved to approve the minutes as written. Chairman Russell seconded the motion. For items #2, 3, and 5 Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Petitions* and *Motions* by *Order* only, effective immediately. For item #4, Mr. Mink recommended issuance of a *Special Order* by *Order* only, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. Docket No. 12000-23-CP-17 (Record No. 14668). Application of the City of Torrington for authority to pass-on a power cost adjustment of \$0.00363 per kilowatt hour sold for the period of April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, to its consumers in the territory of Goshen County. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Morgan Fish, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 21, 2017. O’Kelley Person, Counsel for City of Torrington, introduced David Hedrick, Senior Vice President of CH Guernsey, City of Torrington Mayor Mike Varney and City of Torrington Clerk/Treasurer Lynette Strecker, all of whom participated via telephone. Mr. Hedrick stated that the company is requesting approval of the pass-on power cost adjustment increase due to a wholesale power cost increase from its power suppliers. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after May 1, 2017, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
- 2. Docket No. 70009-477-TT-17 (Record No. 14677). Tariff filing of CenturyLink of the West to revise its Access Service Tariff No. 2. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition).*** Luy Luong, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 21, 2017. Tre Hendricks, Senior Corporate Counsel for CenturyLink of the West, stated that the tariff filing changes tariff terms, not pricing, for services ordered by resale and wholesale customers who then resell the services to their retail customers, to normalize the time in which orders would be cancelled. Mr. Hendricks advised that the proposed tariffs allow 60 days after which CenturyLink can cancel the order. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application and granting the *Petition* by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
- 3. Docket No. 70000-1642-TT-17 (Record No. 14675). Tariff filing of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC to revise the Uniform Service Order Codes, Private Line Transport Services and Access Services. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment* filed on April 20, 2017 (*Petition*).** Tre Hendricks, Senior Corporate Counsel for Qwest Corporation, stated that this filing is

regarding tariff terms and not pricing. Mr. Hendricks advised that the Qwest tariff filing is similar to the Century Link of the West tariff filing on the agenda, which requests a change in terms for canceling orders. Mr. Hendricks advised that the redline version was not included in this original filing and will be provided to the Commission, as well as any other documents that were erroneously left out. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on or after May 1, 2017, and granting the *Petition by Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

4. **Docket No. 30005-225-GP-17 (Record No. 14673). Application of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost decrease of \$0.8142 per dekatherm for Firm and Interruptible rate classes effective May 1, 2017. Commission to consider and act on Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Natural Gas Acquisition Strategy and Financial Forecasting and Gas Cost Invoices* filed on March 31, 2017 (*Petition*).** Kara Seveland, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 21, 2017. Margaret McGill, Regulatory for Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company stated the Company filed for a pass on rate decrease and that the proposed rate is comprised of projected gas costs and deferred gas costs. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on or after May 1, 2017, and granting the *Petition by Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
5. **Docket No. 30011-96-GP-17 (Record No. 14674). Amended Application of Black Hills Northwest Wyoming Gas Utility Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy for authority to pass on a net wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.8092 per Mcf beginning May 1, 2017. Commission to consider and act on Amended Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Gas Cost Invoices* filed on March 31, 2017 (*Petition*).** Luy Luong, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 21, 2017. James M. Elliott, Regulatory for Black Hills Northwest Wyoming Gas Utility Company, stated that the amended application seeks to recover proposed purchase gas costs. Commission Staff made four requests to the company for future applications. Mr. Elliott stated that the company would comply with these requests. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on or after May 1, 2017, with the requirements set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 in the *Memo* in future pass-on applications and require the compliance filings as set forth in paragraph 3, page 5 of the *Memo*. Mr. Burbridge also recommended that if the BHE's commodity account passes zero, the Company will file a pass-on application. Lastly, Mr. Burbridge recommended granting the *Petition by Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
6. **Docket No. 30013-325-GP-17 (Record No. 14686). Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.154 per Dth for Residential and Firm General Service customers and Small and Large Interruptible customers and an increase of \$0.155 per Dth for Optional Seasonal Customers. Commission to consider and act on Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Gas Pricing Information* filed on April 7, 2017 (*Petition*).** Rachel Meeker, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated April 24, 2017. Travis Jacobson, Regulatory Affairs Manager for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., stated that

the application requests to pass-on a wholesale gas cost increase in overall commodity price. The company also requested confidential treatment of Exhibit 3a. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on or after May 1, 2017, and granting the *Petition by Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Commissioner Cooley moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

Prepared by: Sylvia Sanchez

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on May 16, 2017

---

Chairman William F. Russell