

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Marlon Holmquist, Chief Operator, Vista West Water Company (by telephone)

Paul Lowham, President, Vista West Water Company (by telephone)

Kathy Bertrand, Member Services Manager, Yampa Valley Electric Association (by telephone)

Steve Johnson, Operations/Engineering Manager, Yampa Valley Electric Association (by telephone)

Dale W. Cottam, Bailey Stock Harmon Cottam, LLP, Counsel for Nordic Ranches Water, LLC (by telephone)

Elizabeth Missel, Nordic Ranches Utilities (by telephone)

Brian Jobe, General Manager, Kaiser-Frontier Midstream, LLC

Drake Hill, Hill Law Firm, Counsel, Kaiser-Frontier Midstream, LLC

Commission Staff: Steve Mink, Morgan Fish, Marci Norby, Luy Luong, Lori Brand, Jess Bottom, Tom Wilson, Katie Koski, John Burbridge and Chris Petrie

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Undocketed: Minutes for review from Open Meetings of May 30, June 1, 6, and 13, 2017, as prepared by Sylvia Sanchez and Barbara Tomlinson.**
2. **Docket No. 20000-518-EA-17 (Record No. 14736). Application of Rocky Mountain Power for approval of Schedule 37, Standard Rates for Purchases of Power from Qualifying Facilities. Commission to consider issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing*.**
3. **Docket Nos. 70000-1647-TK-17 & 70223-10-TK-17 (Record No. 14757). Contract filing of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC for approval of Amendment to Interconnection Agreement with Airus, Inc. Commission to consider and act on Amendment. Luy Luong, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated July 17, 2017.**
4. **Docket No. 50050-17-PT-17 (Record No. 14639). Application of Rocky Mountain Pipeline System, LLC to cancel its WPSC Tariff No. 3 and Tariff No. 8 (Rates Used in Transport). Commission to consider and act on *Merit Energy Company's Petition for Confidential Treatment and For Protective Order (Petition)*.**
5. **Docket No. 70013-40-TA-17 (Record No. 14767) All West Communications, Inc.'s State Commission Filing regarding Federal Communications Commission Docket No. WC 10-90: Administration of Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Replacement (47 CFR §54.304(d)(1)), Annual Reporting Requirements (47 CFR**

§54.313(h)(i)), Transition of Carrier Access Charges (47 CFR §51.909), and Eligible Revenue Recovery (47 CFR § 57.917(d)(vii)). Commission to consider and act on All West Communications, Inc.'s *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.

6. **Docket No. 70005-44-TA-17 (Record No. 14768). Chugwater Telephone Company's State Commission Filing regarding Federal Communications Commission Docket No. WC 10-90: Administration of Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation Replacement (47 CFR §54.304). Commission to consider and act on Chugwater Telephone Company's *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Documents (Petition)*.**
7. **Docket No. 70009-479-TT-17 (Record No. 14791). Tariff Filing of United Telephone Co. of the West d/b/a CenturyLink of the West to revise General Exchange Price Schedule Section 6. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Luy Luong, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated July 28, 2017.
8. **Docket No. 70088-8-TA-17 (Record No. 14806). Notification of the Indirect Transfer of Control of West Safety Communications and West Telecom Services, LLC to Olympus Holdings II, LLC. Commission to consider acceptance of the Notification for filing.**
9. **Docket No. 74521-9-TA-17 (Record No. 14807). Notification of the Indirect Transfer of Control of West Safety Communications and West Telecom Services, LLC to Olympus Holdings II, LLC. Commission to consider acceptance of the Notification for filing.**

Chairman Russell introduced the consent items. For Item #1, Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to approve the minutes as prepared. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred. For Item #2, Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended issuance of a *Special Order*; for Item #3, approval of the Amendment; for Items #4, 5 and 6, granting the *Petitions*; for Item #7, approval of the Application; and for Items #8 and 9, acceptance of the Notifications for filing; all by *Letter Order or 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. 80007-40-WT-16 (Record No. 14580). Tariff filing of Vista West Water Company pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on application.** Luy Luong, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated July 28, 2017. Marlon Holmquist, Chief Operator of Vista West, presented the revised tariff filing and requested approval. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the Application by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
2. **Docket No. 10001-14-CT-16 (Record No. 14554). Tariff filing of Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc. pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on application.** Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Marci Norby and Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 2, 2017. Kathy Bertrand, Yampa Valley's Member Services Manager,

presented the revised tariffs. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the revised tariff with the following recommendations:

- Points #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and all housekeeping items have been adopted;
- Compliance tariffs to be filed within 10 days.

He recommended all of the above by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

3. **Docket No: 80024-5-WA-16 (Record No. 14597). Application of Nordic Ranches Water, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a public utility rendering domestic water service to the Nordic Ranches Subdivision in Lincoln County, Wyoming. Commission to consider and act on Intervenor, Nordic Ranches Utilities' Motion to Revise Hearing Location on behalf of Nordic Ranches Utilities (Motion).** Elizabeth Missel, Nordic Ranches Utilities, argued many people are committed to attending the hearing if it is held in the local area. There was a discussion about witnesses testifying in person and by telephone. Deputy Chair Fornstrom noted it is not easy for the Commission to go out in the community with electronics and live streaming requirements, as well as other logistical challenges. Chairman Russell agreed. Dale Cottam, Counsel for Nordic Ranches Water, said Nordic Ranches Water will attend regardless of location and has no objection to anyone testifying by telephone, but thought it was more practical to hold the hearing in Cheyenne. There were no further questions or comments. Commissioner Cooley moved to maintain the current scheduling order to hold the hearing in Cheyenne, but allow individuals identified by the parties to appear by telephone, by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom seconded the motion, noting any witness must be approved to participate by telephone prior to the hearing. Chairman Russell concurred.
4. **Undocketed: Commission to receive presentation regarding the operation of natural gas processing plants from representatives of Kaiser-Frontier Midstream, LLC.** Brian Jobe, Kaiser Frontier, explained that since it has not been able to schedule a plant tour, it instead brought a slide presentation to the Commission to provide a general company overview about Kaiser Francis Oil and Kaiser Frontier Midstream, and speak to economic issues and the challenges of residue gas from oil production maintenance flaring, and integrity testing. The presentation was for informational purposes only. No action was required by the Commission.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on October 12, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell
Deputy Chair Kara Brighton Fornstrom

Craig Evert, Owner, Lake Water Company, LLC (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Lori Brand, John Burbridge, Marci Norby,
Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland, Luy Luong, Perry McCollom,
Morgan Fish, Katie Koski and Melisa Mizel

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 20000-519-EA-17 (Record No. 14780). Application of Rocky Mountain Power for an order approving Nontraditional Ratemaking Related to Wind Repowering. Commission to consider and act on:**
 - a. **Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers' *Motion for Application for Admission of Pro Hac Vice of Robert M. Pomeroy, Jr. and Thorvald A. Nelson (Motion)*;**
 - b. **Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers' *Petition to Intervene (Petition.)*;**
 - c. **Northern Laramie Range Alliance *Petition to Intervene (Petition)*; and,**
 - d. **Issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing.***

2. **Docket No. 20000-520-EA-17 (Record No. 14781). Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and nontraditional ratemaking for wind and transmission facilities. Commission to consider:**
 - a. **Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers' *Motion for Application for Admission of Pro Hac Vice of Robert M. Pomeroy, Jr. and Thorvald A. Nelson (Motion)*;**
 - b. **Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers' *Petition to Intervene (Petition)*;**
 - c. **Northern Laramie Range Alliance *Petition to Intervene (Petition)*; and,**
 - d. **Issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing.***

Chairman Russell introduced the consent items. For Items #1a, b, and c and 2a, b, and c, Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Motions* in 1a and 2a. She also recommended granting the *Petitions* in 1b and c and 2b and c. Finally, she recommended, issuing the *Special Orders* in 1d and 2d, all by *Order* only, effective

immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Docket No. 80012-10-WT-17 (Record No. 14687). Tariff filing of Lake Water Company, LLC pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing.** Melisa Mizel, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 4, 2017. Chairman Russell asked Craig Evert, Lake Water's Owner, if the Company would change the language in Tariff Sheet #4 to reference Commission Rules more specifically; i.e., Commission Rules, Chapter 3, Section 9(j). Evert agreed. Chairman Russell asked about a subsequent phrase in the same sheet, Sub Paragraph (b), "however that which where..." Deputy Chair Fornstrom suggested striking the phrase as it is duplicative. Evert agreed. There were no further questions or comments. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following exceptions 1) changing all Commission Rule references to specifically cite "Commission Rule, Chapter xx, Section xx; and 2) striking Sub Paragraph (b) on Tariff Sheet #4, all by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, August 17, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on October 12, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Brian Heithoff, CEO and General Manager, High West Energy
Lindsay Forepaugh, CFO, High West Energy
Dave Crouse, CIO, High West Energy
Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager, High West Energy
Konnie Keehnen, Member Services Manager, High West Energy
Jenniffer Nelson Clark, Counsel, Questar Gas d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming (by telephone)
Austin Summers, Supervisor Regulatory Affairs, Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming (by telephone)
Kelly Mendenhall, General Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming
Abby Thomas, Engineer, Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): John Burbridge, Marci Norby, Jess Bottom, Lori Brand, Morgan Fish, Kara Seveland, Michelle Bohanan

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 30010-155-GP-16 (Record No. 14553). Application of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming for 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 *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Questar Gas Company's Responses to Commission Investigative Requests 3.01 3.02 and 3.11 (Petition)*.**
2. **Docket No. 10014-180-CK-17 (Record No. 14737). Powder River Energy Corporation's filing of an Assurance of Performance Contract. Commission to consider acceptance of contract for filing and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*. Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 10, 2017.**
3. **Docket No. 10014-181-CK-17 (Record No. 14738). Powder River Energy Corporation's filing of an Assurance of Performance Contract. Commission to consider acceptance of contract for filing and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*. Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 10, 2017.**
4. **Docket No. 10014-183-CK-17 (Record No. 14778). Powder River Energy Corporation's filing of an Assurance of Performance Contract. Commission to consider acceptance of contract for filing and act on *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*. Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 8, 2017.**

5. **Docket No. 10002-88-CK-17 (Record No. 14774). Carbon Power and Light, Inc.'s Wholesale Electric Service Contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. Commission to consider acceptance of contract for filing.** Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 8, 2017.

Chairman Russell introduced the consent items. He noted Item # 1 has already been considered and will be removed from the agenda. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, stated Item #3 will be tabled for consideration at a future Open Meeting as there was a late filed *Motion*. For Items #2 and 4, he recommended granting the *Petitions* and for Item #5, acceptance of the contract for filing, all by *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. 10015-65-CT-16 (Record No. 14574). Tariff filing of High West Energy, Inc., pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Marci Norby and Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 11, 2017. Brian Heithoff presented High West Energy's revised tariff filing. High West Energy personnel, Commissioners and Staff discussed various sections of the tariff. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application with the following recommendations:

- Points 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, will be adopted;
- Point #1 will require further discussion regarding confidentiality;
- Points #4 and #12 will be adopted with the recommended edits discussed today, including an edit to the time of day schedule; and
- Filing compliance tariffs within 10 days of today.

He recommended all of the above, by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commission Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

2. **Docket No. 30010-154-GT-16 (Record No. 14551). Tariff filing of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Confidential Contact Information, Customer Information and Confidential Settlement Terms (Petition)*.** Marci Norby, Morgan Fish, Kara Seveland, Jess Bottom and Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 14, 2017. Austin Summers, Supervisor – Regulatory Affairs, presented the Company's revised tariffs. Dominion personnel,

Commissioners and Staff discussed various sections of the tariff. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following recommendations:

- Points #1 through 6 and all housekeeping items will be adopted;
- Compliance tariffs to be filed within 10 days from today; and
- Granting the *Petition*.

She recommended all of the above by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commission Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

- 3. Docket No. 30010-163-GP-17 (Record No. 14714). Application of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.00162 per dekatherm for all firm retail rate classes. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Chairman Russell stated this application is to convert interim rates, which were approved and became effective on June 1, 2107, to permanent rates. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, said Commission Staff has been working with Dominion on the Overland Report, which is anticipated to result in a refund to Wyoming customers. He said interim rates were originally set because it was not clear how the refund would be implemented. Since then, agreements have been reached in Utah and Wyoming, allowing the refunded amount to be passed on through a filing that will be heard in September. This Commission action allows this docket to be closed with permanent rates in place. He concluded this is now just a housekeeping matter and all issues will be resolved with the September filing. Austin Summers, Supervisor – Regulatory Affairs, agreed with Mr. Burbridge and added the pass on is more likely be filed in October, which will include the amounts refunded to customers and will be accompanied by testimony to clarify the memorandum of understanding. There were no questions or comments. Burbridge recommended approval of rates on a permanent basis by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
- 4. Docket No. 30010-166-GT-17 (Record No. 14740). Application of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming to incorporate existing WOBBE Indices into its tariff. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Morgan Fish, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 11, 2017. Austin Summers, Supervisor – Regulatory Affairs, stated this application was filed to comply with Commission Rules. He said Dominion will file a compliance filing with the correct page number to correspond with the tariff filing just completed. He also said Section 6.07, a new section, is planned for Wobbe Indices at the end of the tariff. Deputy Chair Fornstrom noted that forbearance from the Commission’s Wobbe Rule was extended through end of 2017 and was not reflected in Paragraph 5. There were no further questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application with the correction to

Paragraph 5 noted by Deputy Chair Fornstrom, by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commission Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, August 22, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on November 7, 2017

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Stacy Splittstoesser, Wyoming Regulatory Affairs Manager, Rocky Mountain Power

Russell Waldner, General Manager, Carbon Power and Light, Inc. (by telephone)

J.T. Hill, General Manager, Fall River Enterprises, Inc. (by telephone)

Linden Barney, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Enterprises, Inc. (by telephone)

Aaron Neilson, Vice President and General Counsel, Blackfoot Communications d/b/a Blackfoot (by telephone)

Michelle Owens, Regulatory Specialist, Blackfoot Communications d/b/a Blackfoot (by telephone)

Dale W. Cottam, Counsel, Nordic Ranches Water, LLC (by telephone)

Elizabeth Missel, Nordic Ranches Utility (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Lori Brand, John Burbridge, Marci Norby, Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland, Luy Luong, Perry McCollom, Morgan Fish, Katie Koski and Melisa Mizel

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Undocketed: Minutes for review from Open Meetings of June 8 and July 11, 2017, as prepared by Barbara Tomlinson.**
Deputy Chair Fornstrom introduced consent item 1 and moved to approve as written. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
- 2. Docket No. 20000-520-EA-17 (Record No. 14781). Application of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and nontraditional ratemaking for wind and transmission facilities. Commission to consider and act on:**
 - a. Petition for Permissive Intervention of the Interwest Energy Alliance (Petition);*
 - b. RMP's Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Adam C. Lowney (Motion); and*
 - c. RMP's Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Katherine A. McDowell (Motion).*

3. **Docket No. 20000-519-EA-17 (Record No. 14780). Application of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) for an order approving nontraditional ratemaking related to wind repowering. Commission to consider and act on:**
 - a. *Petition for Permissive Intervention of the Interwest Energy Alliance (Petition);*
 - b. *RMP's Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Adam C. Lowney (Motion); and*
 - c. *RMP's Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Katherine A. McDowell (Motion).*

4. **Docket No. 10014-182-CA-17 (Record No. 14776). Application of Powder River Energy Corporation for expedited review of security deposit request. Commission to consider and act on Intervenor's Motion for Application for Admission of Pro Hac Vice of Thorvald A. Nelson (Motion).**

Chairman Russell introduced consent items 2-4. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended for items 2a and 3a granting the *Petitions* and for items 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c and 4 granting the *Motions*, all by *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. 20000-506-EA-16 (Record No. 14610). Amended Application of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) for authority to adjust rates for Electric Service Schedule 92, Bonus Tax Depreciation. Commission to consider and act on request to adjust effective date from August 1, 2017 to September 1, 2017, as presented in the company's compliance filing of August 16, 2017.**

Stacy Splittstoesser stated that this is a rate increase with the possibility of a decrease within a few months. Ms. Splittstoesser stated that after discussions with Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC) and Commission staff the Company decided to continue with the filing for a rate increase with a requested effective date of September 1, 2017. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the request to adjust the effective date to September 1, 2017, and that it be reflected in the Commission's larger *Memo* in the underlying docket by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

2. **Docket No. 10002-85-CT-16 (Record No. 14564). Tariff filing of Carbon Power and Light, Inc. (Carbon) pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on Commission Staff's recommendation that it amend its decision regarding Carbon's avoided cost filing requirements. Russell Waldner, General Manager, to appear in person for Carbon.**

Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Jess Bottom, Marci Norby and Michelle Bohanan, Commission Staff, provided a Technical *Memo* dated August 15, 2017. Marci Norby, Commission Staff, stated that Carbon Power and Light, Inc. was one of the first tariffs considered by the Commission. Ms. Norby stated that subsequently the Commission

approved the Cooperatives having an avoided cost rate being the same it pays the wholesale supplier if the Cooperative files, within 10 days, a letter of avoided cost rate change with supporting documentation. Ms. Norby stated that Commission Staff will compile the rate changes and present them to the Commission in lieu of the Cooperative filing an application for the change. Ms. Norby recommends that Carbon be granted the same opportunity as the other Cooperatives. John Burbridge, Commission Staff, recommended approval of the amendment to the avoided cost recommendation from the June 13, 2017, Open Meeting, which will be added to the larger *Order* from the June 13, 2017, action, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

3. **Docket No. 30024-2-GT-16 (Record No. 14536). Tariff filing of Fall River Enterprises, Inc. pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing.**

Morgan Fish, Kara Seveland, Marci Norby, and Michelle Bohanan, Commission Staff, provided a Technical *Memo* dated August 15, 2017. J.T. Hill stated that the Company agrees with all of the housekeeping items. Mr. Hill stated that there are no contracts at this time to file with the Commission. Morgan Fish, Commission Staff, stated that there are no current contracts to file but that the Company is aware that they must file any future contracts with the Commission. Mr. Hill stated that the Company would file future contracts with the Commission. Linden Barney, Chief Financial Officer, for Fall River Enterprises, Inc. stated that they are in agreement with items 1-3 on the recommendation sheet. Mr. Barney stated that the Company does not have experience with after hour disconnections and are not inclined to include it in the tariff as well as item number 6. Mr. Barney stated that they have not yet had the opportunity to collect a nonresidential deposit and they do agree to change item 5 sheet 18's heading to "Discontinuation of Service". Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

4. **Docket No. 70251-1-TA-17 (Record No. 14698). Application of Blackfoot Communications d/b/a Blackfoot for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide service in Wyoming. Commission to consider and act on Application and Petition for Confidential Treatment of Trade Secrets and Confidential Data (Petition).**

Tom Wilson, Commission Staff, provided a Technical *Memo* dated June 27, 2017. Aaron Neilson, Vice President and General Counsel, for Blackfoot Communications stated that only Exhibit D is addressed in the *Memo* regarding confidential treatment but that Exhibits B and C are also included in the *Petition*. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approving the Application and granting the *Petition* by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

5. **Docket No: 80024-5-WA-16 (Record No. 14597). Application of Nordic Ranches Water, LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate as a public utility rendering domestic water service to the Nordic Ranches Subdivision in Lincoln County, Wyoming. Commission to consider and act on:**

- a. **Intervenor Nordic Ranches Utilities' Motion on Behalf of Nordic Ranches Utilities to allow Witnesses to appear via telephone (Intervenor's Motion);**
- b. **Nordic Ranches Water, LLC's Objection to Witnesses Woodward and Hirschi Testifying Either in Person or by Telephone (Applicants' Objection);**
- c. **Nordic Ranches Water, LLC's Motion for a Date and Time Certain for Jason Linford, P.E. to Testify and for NRW Witnesses Ron Hale and Dorothy Reinhart to appear by Phone (Applicants' Motion);**
- d. **Nordic Ranches Water, LLC's General Objection to Nordic Ranches Utilities' Exhibits and Specific Objection to Certain Testimonies as Exhibits (Applicants' General Objection); and**
- e. **Nordic Ranches Water, LLC's Petition for Designation of its Responses to CIR Set 5 as "Highly Sensitive" and Subject to Receipt only by the Commission and Staff (Applicants' Petition).**

Chairman Russell introduced the items and noted that there are 2 additional filings that the Commission received late this morning that are not noticed and are relating to items 5a, 5b, and 5d. Chairman Russell moved to table items 5a, 5b, and 5d due to insufficient time to review and recommended the items be considered at the exhibit conference. Deputy Chair Fornstrom seconded the motion and Commissioner Cooley concurred. Dale Cottam, Counsel for Nordic Ranches Water, LLC stated that for item 5c the Company is not aware of any objections from Nordic Ranches Utility. Mr. Cottam stated that the Company requests the testimony of Jason Linford be scheduled for August 30th in the morning and in person. Mr. Cottam requested that the testimony of Ron Hale be taken on August 30th and by phone as his testimony is brief with no extensive exhibits or technical testimony and also due to his advanced age. Mr. Cottam also requested that Dorothy Reinhart's testimony be by telephone due to her age and brief testimony. Elizabeth Missel intervenor had no objections to the testimonies of Jason Linford, Ron Hale and Dorothy Reinhart being by telephone. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Motion* for the witnesses to appear by telephone on August 30th all by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

Mr. Cottam asked that for item 5e, in respect to the personal financial information of individuals, that the information be considered confidential and be treated as such. Ms. Missel stated that the concern is being able to verify the capability of those managing the business. Luy Luong, Commission Staff, asked how the Company will address the concerns of the intervenor if the information is to remain confidential. Mr. Cottam stated that the Company has a full time bookkeeper and accountant that have been managing the finances for several years. The Company also has a CPA that prepares taxes, financial statements, and annual reports. Mr. Cottam stated that the Company believes that it is the duty of the Commission to ensure the utility is healthy and has the ability to meet its financial responsibilities. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the

Motion by Order only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Chairman Russell seconded the motion and Commissioner Cooley dissented.

Prepared by: Sylvia Sanchez

Date of Next Open Meeting: Monday, August 28, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on October 17, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2017
1:30 p.m.

Commissioners: Chairman William F. Russell
Deputy Chair Kara Brighton Fornstrom

Paul Lowham, President, Vista West Water Company (by telephone)
Karol Brewer, Accountant, Vista West Water Company (by telephone)
Jason Keil, Manager- Regulatory, Black Hills Power (BHP) (by telephone)
James Elliott, Manager of Regulatory, Black Hills Energy (by telephone)
Stacy Splittstoesser, Wyoming Regulatory Affairs Manager, Rocky
Mountain Power (RMP)
Heide Caswell, Director of Engineering, RMP
Terry Heard, Distribution Manager for Riverton, RMP (by telephone)

Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA): Chris Leger

Commission Staff (CS): Katie Koski, John Burbridge, Marci Norby, Tom
Wilson, Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Luy Luong, Katie Koski, Lori
Brand, Jess Bottom

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 20000-512-EA-17 (Record No. 14667). Rocky Mountain Power's Integrated Resource Plan for 2017 (2017 IRP). Commission to consider and act on Rocky Mountain Power's *Petition for Confidential Treatment and Protective Order (Petition)*.**

Chairman Russell introduced the consent item and moved it to the regular agenda for clarification and consideration.

REGULAR AGENDA

Docket No. 20000-512-EA-17 (Record No. 14667). Rocky Mountain Power's Integrated Resource Plan for 2017 (2017 IRP). Commission to consider and act on Rocky Mountain Power's *Petition for Confidential Treatment and Protective Order (Petition)*. Chairman Russell asked if all of the data disks containing RMP's 2017 IRP work papers contains confidential information. Stacy Splittstoesser, RMP's Wyoming Regulatory Affairs Manager, clarified that only disks #2, #3 and #4 are entirely confidential. She said she neglected to update the *Petition* when she received all of the disks. There were no further questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Petition*, specifically as to Disks #2, #3 and #4, and issuing the *Protective Order*, by *Letter Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

1. **Docket No. 80007-41-WP-17 (Record No. 14816). Application of Vista West Water Company for authority to pass on an increase of \$0.17 per 1,000 gallons of water consumed in the total commodity charge. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Luy Luong, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 23, 2017. Karol Brewer, Vista West's Accountant, stated the City of Casper increased water costs by 7 cents in January and the commodity balancing account was also under collected. She said this resulted in a net increase of 17 cents to Vista West's rates. There were no questions or comments. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after September 1, 2017, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

2. **Docket No. 20002-104-EA-17 (Record No. 14800). Application of Black Hills Power, Inc., to decrease its Energy Cost Adjustment by \$0.0022 per kWh for the period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018. Commission to consider Black Hills Power, Inc.'s request for interim rates.** Kara Seveland, and Morgan Fish, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 22, 2017. Jason Keil, Black Hills Power's Manager of Regulatory, explained the requested decrease in the energy cost adjustment rate is due to an increase in energy retail sales. He stated interim rates subject to refund have been requested to provide rate stability pending further review of this matter. Chris Leger, OCA, commented the request for interim rates is reasonable. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application on an interim basis subject to refund for use on and after September 1, 2017, by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

3. **Docket No. 30022-295-GP-17 (Record No. 14810). Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHE) (Casper Division) for authority to pass-on through its Commodity Balancing Account a decrease of \$0.0397 per therm to its Pass-On Rate [Regulated Rate] customers. Commission to consider and act on Application and Petition for Confidential Treatment of Exhibits D and F filed on July 31 2017 (Petition).** Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical attached *Memo* dated August 23, 2017. James Elliott, Black Hills Energy's Manager of Regulatory, explained this is the regular quarterly pass on application for the Casper Division, resulting in a decrease in total rates, and is comprised of a decrease in the total commodity rate, a reduction in the commodity balancing account surcharge amount, with no change to the working gas storage adjustment rate. Elliott provided clarification regarding Commission Staff comments about the working gas storage adjustment rate. He confirmed there was a referencing error and a dekatherm conversion issue, which has been corrected. Bohanan asked about the removal of the line for actual volumes and Elliott explained that rather than calculate the actual amount collected, the calculation was based on the rate on Line 2 multiplied by the actual volumes on Line 4. He concluded that method aligns Schedule 7 and the way the over and under is collected with the commodity balancing account. Bohanan asked if the values on these schedules from 2014 going forward can be accurately compared to 2006 through 2014. Elliott said there might be some variance but it is not significant. Elliott stated the corrected tariff sheet has been filed with the Commission. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application and

granting the *Petition* for use on and after September 1, 2017, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

4. **Docket No. 30022-296-GP-17 (Record No. 14811). Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Gillette Division) for authority to pass-on through its Commodity Balancing Account a decrease of \$0.0231 per therm to its Pass-On Rate [Regulated Rate] customers. Commission to consider and act on Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Exhibits D and F* filed on July 31, 2017 (*Petition*).** Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 23, 2017. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, stated this is the regular quarterly pass on application for the Gillette Division, resulting in an overall decrease in total rates, which is composed of a decrease in the commodity rate and an increase in the credit to the commodity balancing account for the surcharge rate. There were no questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after September 1, 2017, granting the *Petition*, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
5. **Docket No. 30022-297-GP-17 (Record No. 14812). Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Torrington Division) for authority to pass-on through its Commodity Balancing Account an increase of \$0.0021 per therm to its Pass-On Rate [Regulated Rate] customers. Commission to consider and act on Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Exhibits D and F* filed on July 31, 2017 (*Petition*).** Morgan Fish, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 23, 2017. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, explained this is the regular quarterly pass on application for the Torrington Division, resulting in an overall increase to rates due to a decrease in the commodity rate, an increase in the surcharge rate, and an increase in the working gas storage adjustment rate. He stated there were issues with Schedule 7 as in Item #3, which have been corrected through a revised filing to the Commission. There were no questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after September 1, 2017, and granting the *Petition*, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.
6. **Docket No. 30003-75-GP-17 (Record No. 14814). Amended Application of Black Hills Energy, a division of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company, for authority to pass on a gas supply charge decrease of \$0.2905 per Dth to its Small General Service and Large General Service customers. Commission to consider and act on Amended Application and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Page 6 of Exhibit C and Exhibit E in its Entirety* (*Petition*).** Jess Bottom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 23, 2017. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory explained this is an amended application seeking an overall decrease to the gas supply charge and is composed of a decrease in the wholesale commodity cost and an increase in the commodity balancing account rate. The amended application was filed due to a missing data point in the monthly projected volumes used to integrate the rate. There were no questions or comments. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after

September 1, 2017, and granting the *Petition*, by *Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

7. **Docket No. 20000-513-EA-17 (Record No. 14669). Notification of Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) of a Major Event Report on January 7-10, 2017. Commission to consider and act on request to categorize the event as a major event.** Perry McCollom, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 16, 2017. Stacy Splittstoesser, Wyoming Regulatory Affairs Manager, provided a summary of an event that occurred on January 7, 2017, when a transformer in the Riverton substation failed causing an outage. Arrangements were subsequently made to use a spare transformer. A total of 5,304 customers experienced outages ranging from 2.5 hours to 18.5 hours. RMP informed the Commission on January 7, 2017, at 11:53 p.m. and provided periodic updates up to the final notification on January 8, 2017. She said due to extremely cold weather, RMP worked with local police and the Red Cross to open an emergency shelter for affected residents. Terry Heard, RMP's Distribution Manager for Riverton, commented the spare transformer was removed after the replacement was energized. There were no further questions or comments. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the request by *Letter Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

8. **Undocketed: Commission to receive presentation from representatives of Rocky Mountain Power regarding the Company's 2016 Service Quality Review Report (Report).** Stacy Splittstoesser introduced the presentation of RMP's 2016 Service Quality Review Report noting RMP is requesting different treatment going forward. She said she will outline the details of the proposal following the Service Quality Review Report. Heide Caswell, RMP's Director of Engineering, explained the service quality review has been presented to the Commission in same way for last 10-15 years, is conducted twice yearly and is based on its customer service quality standards program and service quality measures (System Average Interruption Duration Index or SAIDI and System Average Interruption Frequency Index or SAIFI). Caswell provided details of the process. She said events mostly correlate to weather and performance has been good overall. Caswell noted that cause code analysis becomes important for reliability to determine whether trends exist for various causes. Equipment failure is one of the larger issues but this affects fewer customers for less time. She said RMP is migrating toward open reliability reporting proposing to effectively summarize all of the projects meeting certain targets for improvement activity to deliver better costs for the improvements. A proposal is available for the Commission to review. She said RMP is positioning itself to react more rapidly to outage events. Caswell commented RMP wants to optimize the improvement work being done with better data and the Company has been building that foundation to make implementation possible. She stated there is increased cost only in the creation of the data structure. The data is used to determine if the Company is delivering reasonable improvement projects. Deputy Chair Fornstrom asked if the format of the report will change. Caswell responded it is one portion of the new plan and it shows what can be provided. She noted RMP will continue reporting

on legacy issues until the improvement goal is met. Perry McCollom, CS, commented he thought it was a good plan and is interested in monitoring its effectiveness. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, thought it would be a useful addition to what RMP already is doing. No action by the Commission was required.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on November 7, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell