

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Jenniffer Nelson Clark, Senior Corporate Counsel, Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming (Dominion) (by telephone)
Austin Summers, Supervisor – Rates and Regulatory, Dominion (by telephone)
Barrie McKay, Director of Customer Rates and Regulation, Dominion (by telephone)
Garret Frescoln, Vice President, Frannie Deaver Utilities (FDU) (by telephone)
Leslie Graham, General Manager, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)
Gordon Neumann, Engineering Manager, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)
Bruce Asay, Associated Legal Group, LLC, Counsel for Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
Tamie Aberle, Director – Regulatory Affairs, MDU (by telephone)
Stephanie Bosch, Regulatory Affairs Manager, MDU (by telephone)
Martell Brower, Gas Operations Director, Lower Valley Energy (LVE) (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Katie Koski, Marci Norby, Morgan Fish, John Burbridge, Steve Mink, Michelle Bohanan, Chris Petrie, Kara Seveland, David Piroutek, Jacob Kilmurray

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Undocketed: Minutes for review from Open Meetings of June 22 and 29, 2017, as prepared by Barbara Tomlinson.**
2. **Docket No. 20003-156-EP-17 (Record No. 14649). Application of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy to increase its Power Cost Adjustment by \$0.00468 per kWh for the period April 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018. Commission to consider and act on Company's *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Discovery Documents and Protective Order (Petition)* filed on June 29, 2017.**
3. **Docket No. 50008-4-PT-17 (Record No. 14743). Application of Pioneer Pipe Line Company for Authority to Cancel Refined Products Pipeline Tariff WPSC No. 12.0. Commission to consider issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing*.**

4. **Docket No. 50012-32-PT-17 (Record No. 14648). Application of Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC, Requesting Authority to Cancel Its Wyoming PSC Tariff Nos. 3.0 And 4.0. Commission to consider issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing.***
5. **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 and act on CLFP's *Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Todd L. Brink (Motion).***

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, Katie Koski, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Petition*, by *Order* only, effective immediately. For Items #3 and #4, she recommended issuance of the *Special Orders*, by *Order* only, effective immediately. For Item #5, she recommended granting the motion, by *Order* only, effective immediately. For Items #2 through #5, Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 30010-168-GS-17 (Record No. 14819). Application of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming for authority to issue securities. Commission to consider issuance of an order continuing this matter beyond thirty (30) days pursuant to W.S. § 37-6-104.** Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, explained this item will be ready to be heard at next Open Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. Mink recommended granting the continuance 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. 90000-126-XO-16 (Record No. 14378). In the matter of the study by the Commission on its own motion of statewide Wobbe indices. Commission to receive presentation by Commission Staff on quarterly reporting of Wobbe values by natural gas distribution utilities for the second quarter of 2017 and take such action as the public interest may require.** Marci Norby, Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, David Piroutek and Jacob Kilmurray, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated August 28, 2017. Deputy Chair Fornstrom introduced the agenda item.

30003 – Black Hills Energy Northeast – BHE-NE – Deputy Chair Fornstrom noted two items on the action items list from last quarter were resolved. Bohanan stated 12 points sampled were all within the 4% allowable deviation. The Company is in compliance with Commission Rules, has provided a color coded map and has two action items remaining. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, explained that there was not enough time from the last presentation to resolve the two remaining action items and they will be resolved shortly. There were no questions.

30005 – Cheyenne Light Fuel and Power - CLFP – Deputy Chair Fornstrom noted the data problem from last quarter was resolved. Seveland stated the Carpenter/Burns and Pine Bluffs areas do not have established Wobbe indices and percentages are based on mean averages. She said CLFP has filed an application to establish Wobbe indices for these areas. CLFP is no longer taking gas from Silo Kaiser and all points are within the 4% allowable deviation. CLFP is also seeking to update its Cheyenne area Wobbe indices. Seveland commented the Company is unable to certify compliance with Commission Rules. It has several action items to resolve, including some work on the map. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, said CLFP will work on putting the names of pipelines on the map. He was optimistic that the next filing will resolve the outstanding action items. Gas quality issues should also decrease and Elliott said he is working internally to complete this by the next quarter.

30007 – Frannie Deaver Utilities – FDU- Bohanan said there have been some variances in the Frannie area and said a metering problem with the production wells was found. She said all production wells are back online and the variances should no longer be a problem. She also said there were variances with source receipts compared to reported deliveries and asked Garret Frescoln, FDU's Vice President, to research this. She said the Commission will likely see corrections in the third quarter. FDU has certified compliance with Commission Rules and provided a map of its system. Frescoln added that FDU has pinpointed some reporting errors made in gas purchases, which have been corrected and updated. He said the maps would be labeled shortly and submitted. He commented the Mcf losses and gains have been brought back to within 3.9% but noted the system is small and it tends to magnify errors. Frescoln said FDU troubleshoots by turning off local production because it is too expensive to have an independent company come in. There were no questions.

30009 – Wyoming Gas Company – Deputy Chair Fornstrom commented the Company has resolved one of its action items, customer account by service class for Lake Creek. Bohanan explained the deviation in the Grass Creek and Lake Creek areas exceeded the 4% allowable deviation. The Wobbe Index in Grass Creek was established in 2012 using Walker Dome, but it is no longer a source and likely the reason for the resulting deviation. In the Lake Creek area, she commented the source has changed. She said the Company has provided customer information for the Lake Creek area, as requested. She also confirmed Wyoming Gas is in compliance with Commission Certification Rules and has provided an accurate map. As to the final action item, a meeting has been set for the end of October to address its Wobbe indices and a path forward. Gordon Neumann, Wyoming Gas' Engineering Manager, stated Wyoming Gas is not anticipating receiving Walker Dome gas in the future and the Grass Creek issues could be resolved by reestablishing its Wobbe index. There were no questions.

30010 – Questar Gas d/b/a Dominion Energy – Fish stated there were no deviations outside of 4%, and the Company is in compliance with Commission Rules. Dominion has provided a color coded map of its system. There are no action items. There were no questions.

30011 – Black Hills Energy Northwest –BHE-NW – Deputy Chair Fornstrom commented BHE-NW has not been able to resolve action items from last quarter due to a timing issue. Bohanan stated Cody had a deviation outside of the 4%. She said gross

receipts are greater than the city gates receipts and is still unresolved. BHE-NW has been unable to certify compliance with Commission Rules, but it has provided a color coded map. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, responded that the Cody point issue was due to low volume which should resolve as volume goes up for the winter. There were no questions.

30013 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – MDU – Bohanan stated there are 19 points over 8 zones and all are in compliance. MDU was able to certify compliance with Commission Rules and has provided a map of its system. There is one action item, which is a request for additional work on its map. Bruce Asay, MDU's Counsel, responded this would be completed within the next month. There were no questions.

30016 – Pinedale Natural Gas - PNG – Deputy Chair Fornstrom stated Pinedale is in compliance. Seveland noted that all points were within the 4% allowable deviation, compliance with Commission Rules has been certified, and color coded maps were provided. There are no action items. Bruce Asay, Pinedale's Counsel, concluded Pinedale would complete its application filing to establish a Wobbe index shortly. There were no questions.

30018 – Lower Valley Energy - LVE – Deputy Chair Fornstrom stated LVE has resolved its calibration issue from the last report. Bohanan added that the Jackson area pipeline gas is within the 4% allowable deviation but LVE is still collecting data for comparison to liquid natural gas (LNG). LVE has certified compliance with Commission Rules and provided maps. The action items are in progress. There were no questions.

30019 – Town of Walden –Fish stated that there were no points outside of the 4% allowable deviation, the Town has complied with Commission Rules and provided a color coded system map. She said the Town has filed an application to establish a Wobbe index. There are no remaining action items. There were no questions.

30022 – Black Hills Gas Distribution - BHGD – Bohanan stated that BHGD is nearly all in compliance. She said the Midwest-Edgerton area is out of tolerance, but has filed an application to re-establish the Wobbe index. It was noted there is still a question about measurement points. Additionally, she said BHGD is mostly able to certify compliance with Commission Rules, its map continues to improve and all action items are progressing. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, will work with Commission Staff to resolve all action items. There were no questions.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2017

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

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Kelly Mendenhall, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Questar Gas Company
d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming (Dominion) (by telephone)
Dave Curtis, Controller, Dominion (by telephone)
Richard Davis, Treasury Department, Dominion (by telephone)
Stacy Splittstoesser, Wyoming Regulatory Affairs Manager, RMP
Yvonne Hogle, Assistant General Counsel, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP)
(by telephone)
Melissa Nottingham, Manager of Customer Advocacy Tariff Policy, RMP
Eric Holje, Senior Customer Regulatory Analyst, RMP (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Steve Mink, Michelle Bohanan, John Burbridge,
Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Marci Norby

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Undocketed: Minutes for review from Open Meeting of June 15, 2017, as prepared by 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 and act on Intervenor Renewable Energy Coalition's *Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice of Irion Sanger (Motion)*.**

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, Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended granting the *Motion*, 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. 30010-168-GS-17 (Record No. 14819). Application of Questar Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Wyoming for authority to issue securities. Commission to consider and act on Application.** Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 7, 2017. Kelly Mendenhall explained the Company is requesting authority for the issuance of up to \$150 million in debt securities which will be used primarily to repay existing short term debt, fund capital expenditures, and refinance maturing long term debt. He said there is no impact to capital structure. The debt to equity ratio will remain at about 50% with the enterprise value of the Company staying above

total book value. The filing complies with Commission Rules. Mendenhall confirmed Dominion would set pricing in September 2017, and issue the bonds in the first quarter of 2018, after which Dominion will submit a compliance filing. 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. 20000-503-ET-16 (Record No. 14555). Tariff filing of Rocky Mountain Power 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 September 7, 2017. Stacy Splittstoesser presented RMP's revised tariffs. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with following recommendations:

- Points 1, 2, 3, and 6 through 21 will be adopted;
- All housekeeping items will be adopted
- All of the above to be included in a compliance filing which is due within 45 days from today.

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.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, September 14, 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, September 14, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Bruce Asay, Counsel, Associated Legal Group, LLC, Counsel for Pinedale Natural Gas (by telephone)
James Elliott, Manager of Regulatory, Black Hills Energy (BHE)
Jason Keil, Manager of Regulatory, Black Hills Power (BHP) (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): John Burbridge, Jess Bottom, Katie Koski, Marci Norby, Michelle Bohanan, Kara Seveland.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 30016-84-GS-17 (Record No. 14820). Application of Pinedale Natural Gas, Inc. for approval of a loan renewal with First Interstate Bank. Commission to consider issuance of an order continuing this matter beyond thirty (30) days pursuant to W.S. § 37-6-104.** John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, stated that the request for a continuance is from Commission Staff as there are several issues that still need to be resolved concerning the debt to equity ratio. Bruce Asay, Pinedale's Counsel, stated Pinedale does not object to the continuance. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.
2. **Docket No. 30005-218-GT-16 (Record No. 14520). Tariff filing of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing.** Marci Norby, Michelle Bohanan, Jess Bottom, and Kara Seveland, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 7, 2017. James Elliott, BHE's Manager of Regulatory, presented the Company's revised tariffs. Katie Koski, Commission Counsel recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following recommendations:
 - Point #1 has been adopted;
 - Point #2 – the Company will continue to explore options, working with Commission Staff and has committed to making a filing within 12 months, if necessary;
 - Point #3 – the Company will work with Commission Staff to modify the language to clarify intent;
 - Point #4 – the Commission recommended deleting the references and constructing language with Commission Staff to comply with Wyoming Statutes regarding overcharging or under collecting;
 - Point #5 – the Company will conduct an analysis of the 20 or less farm taps and provide its findings and any safety concerns to the Commission within 30 days;

- Point #6 – the Commission recommends the Company provide an analysis of the calculation, whether it is still appropriate in today’s economics and address it in the next rate case;
- All housekeeping recommendations were adopted; and
- A compliance filing with all adjustments be submitted within 10 days from today’s date.

Koski 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.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2017

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

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Bruce Asay, Associated Legal Group, LLC, Counsel for Pinedale Natural Gas and Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU)
Steve Shute, President, Pinedale Natural Gas (by telephone)
Travis Jacobson, Regulatory Affairs Manager, MDU (by telephone)
Jason Keil, Regulatory Manager, Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHE)

Commission Staff (CS): John Burbridge, Jess Bottom, Lori Brand, Tom Wilson, Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Steve Mink, Michelle Bohanan, Rachel Meeker and Marci Norby

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Docket No. 10014-181-CK-17 (Record No. 14738). Powder River Energy Corporation's (PRECorp) filing of an Assurance of Performance Contract. Commission to consider and act on PRECorp's *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)* and *Motion to Withdraw Contract Filing (Motion)*.**
2. **Docket No. 74711-2-TA-17 (Record No. 14827). Notification of Conectado, Inc., to discontinue telecommunications service and cancel its Interexchange Registration Authority to do business in Wyoming. Commission to consider acceptance of the Notification for filing.**
3. **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 issuance of a *Special Order Authorizing One Commissioner and/or Presiding Officer to Conduct Public Hearing*.**

Chairman Russell introduced the consent items. For Item #1, John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended denying the *Motion to Withdraw* acceptance of the contract for filing and granting the *Petition*. For Item #2, he recommended acceptance of the Notification for filing and for Item #3, issuance of a *Special Order*, 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. 30016-85-GP-17 (Record No. 14828). Application of Pinedale Natural Gas, Inc. for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.043 per therm through its commodity balancing account. Commission to consider and act on Application and**

Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition). Michelle Bohanan, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Bruce Asay, Counsel for Pinedale Natural Gas, noted this is the semi-annual purchased gas adjustment pass on application. He said the price of natural gas has increased and the Company provided invoices in support of this. Asay confirmed the Company was only requesting a *Petition* and not a *Protective Order*. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application and granting the *Petition by Notice and Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended and Chairman Russell seconded the motion.

2. **Docket No. 30013-331-GP-17 (Record No. 14831). Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.086 per Dth for Residential and Firm General Service customers, an increase of \$0.082 per Dth for Small and Large Interruptible customers and an increase of \$1.264 per Dth for Optional Seasonal Customers. Commission to consider and act on Application and Petition for Confidential Treatment of Gas Pricing Information filed on September 8, 2017 (Petition)**. Rachel Meeker, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 20, 2017. Travis Jacobson, MDU's Regulatory Affairs Manager, stated this is the monthly application to pass on purchased gas costs, as well as the annual change in the surcharge adjustment and non-core revenue credit, resulting in an increase. He said the reason for the increase was due to an increase in the overall commodity price. There were no questions. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application for use on and after October 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.

3. **Docket No. 20003-153-ET-16 (Record No. 14532). Tariff filing of Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power Company d/b/a/ Black Hills Energy, 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, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 20, 2017. Jason Keil, BHE's Regulatory Manager, presented the Company's revised tariffs. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following recommendations:
 - Points # 1 and 3 through 10 from the Summary Sheet, have been adopted;
 - Point # 2 has been adopted subject to the Company and Commission Staff making a determination if including the amounts for the monthly kilowatt charge in the tariff is too burdensome;
 - Point # 11 has been adopted but the Company and Commission Staff will work to decide on appropriate language;
 - All housekeeping items have been adopted; and
 - The Company will file compliance tariffs with the recommended adjustments within 10 days from today's date.

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

4. **Docket No. 20002-103-ET-16 (Record No. 14570). Tariff filing of Black Hills Power, 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, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 20, 2017. BHE's Regulatory Manager, presented the Company's revised tariffs. John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following recommendations:

- Points # 1, 7, 8 (first bullet point only), 9 and 10 have been adopted;
- Point #4 has been adopted subject to the Company and Commission Staff making a determination if including the amounts for the monthly kilowatt charge in the tariff is too burdensome;
- All housekeeping items have been adopted; and
- Compliance tariffs to be filed with the recommended adjustments within 10 days of today's date.

Burbridge recommended all of the above 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, September 28, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on November 9, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of the ETC Open Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 2017
9:00 a.m.

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

Michelle Motzkus, Legal and Regulatory Administrator, Silver Star Companies (by telephone)
Liz Zerga, Jubin and Zerga, LLC, Counsel for the Range Companies
Kristin Lee, Regulatory-Legislative Affairs Director, CenturyLink
Emanuel Cocian, Holland and Hart, LLP, Counsel for Boomerang Wireless d/b/a EnTouch Wireless (by telephone)
Julia Redman-Carter, Regulatory and Compliance Officer, Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless (by telephone)
Sharyl Fowler, Lifeline Compliance Manager, Tempo Telecom, LLC (by telephone)

Commission Staff (CS): Steve Mink and Tom Wilson

REGULAR AGENDA

Tom Wilson, Commission Staff, provided overview of annual certification (for use of funds) process and details of what is reviewed.

1. **Docket No. 70249-2-TA-17 (Record No. 14782). Silver Star Communications, Inc., (CLEC), 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. He stated the Company provides service in Teton County (western Wyoming). He noted that Silver Star submitted a complete application with all required information under Commission Rules. Wilson noted it receives some federal high cost support and provided confidential information about its investments, showing it expended more money than it received. The Company also submitted a five-year plan and has a small amount of Lifeline receipts. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
2. **Docket No. 62042-12-RA-17 (Record No. 14784). Gold Star Communications, LLC d/b/a Gold Star Wireless 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Amended Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. He stated Gold Star provided a complete application, a five-year plan and all required information regarding outages, held orders and complaints. He confirmed it does some outreach and provided maps. Wilson noted Gold Star has a few Lifeline customers. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended

approval of the application and granting the *Amended Petition* 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. 70006-110-TA-17 (Record No. 14785). Silver Star Communications, Inc., (ILEC) 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Amended Petition for Confidential Treatment (Amended Petition)* filed July 10, 2017.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson noted the Company submitted a complete application including all required information and a five-year plan with confidential information on expenses. He said they have some Lifeline customers. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the application and granting the *Amended Petition* 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. 70096-41-TA-17 (Record No. 14787). Advanced Communications Technology, Inc. (ACT), 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company has received some federal high cost support. He also said it has some Lifeline business and competes against CenturyLink. ACT provided its five-year plan but explained it is difficult to forecast five years ahead. Liz Zerga, ACT's Counsel, commented more broadly, that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has eliminated the five-year plan requirement because the funding mechanism has completely changed. She said it is not based on future plans but is tied to service and is evolving. Zerga stated that, as counsel to several telecommunications companies, she will come before the Commission to discuss the five-year plan for ETCs in the Commission Rules. Wilson stated ACT has received support based on the number of customers it serves. Deputy Chair Fornstrom asked Zerga to provide Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) reference for the FCC rule change and to submit it in conjunction with other Commission Rule changes that are currently in progress. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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. 70013-41-TA-17 (Record No. 14793). All West Communications, Inc., 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. He stated All West has filed a complete application, providing information regarding held orders, outages, and complaints, and there is a map on file. He said the Company has no Lifeline customers. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
6. **Docket No. 70011-52-TA-17 (Record No. 14794). Tri County Telephone Association, Inc. 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to**

consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*. Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company is a rural local exchange company and receives support based on expenditures. He said the Company filed a complete application and has a small amount of Lifeline business. Liz Zerga, Tri County's Counsel, commented it was formerly two separate companies that filed identical applications and the companies have been combined. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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. Chairman Russell stated Item #14 would be considered next for efficiency.

7. **Docket No. 70003-189-TA-17 (Record No. 14795). CenturyTel of Wyoming, Inc. d/b/a CenturyLink, 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson said the three CenturyLink entities are all now treated as part of CenturyLink. He said the Company should be receiving support based on model support but declined the offer and is currently receiving frozen high cost support. The Company filed a complete application, has a few Lifeline customers and provided a five-year plan. It also supplied all required information on outreach, outages, complaints, and tribal outreach. Kristen Lee, CenturyLink's Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Director, provided details about the Company's investment in rural projects, its five-year plan, its plan for federal universal service funds going forward and the anticipation of an auction of certain areas. She said if there is an auction and CenturyLink bids for certain areas and wins, it would follow proscribed requirements and update the Commission at that point. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
8. **Docket No. 70000-1649-TA-17 (Record No. 14796). Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC, 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment (Petition)*.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company submitted a complete filing and commented that most of the information for the five-year plan was provided. He said the Company provided data about complaints, emergency function, affiliates, tribal service and examples of outreach as well as Lifeline customers, terms and conditions. Kristin Lee, CenturyLink's Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Director, explained all jobs that have been completed are shown on the report per wire, which is an added layer of reporting. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
9. **Docket No. 70009-480-TA-17 (Record No. 14797). United Telephone Company of the West d/b/a CenturyLink, 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for***

Confidential Treatment (Petition). Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company receives frozen high cost support and provided a complete application with all required information. He said United has a small number of Lifeline customers. Kristin Lee, CenturyLink's Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Director responded to Deputy Chair Fornstrom she would research the amount of Lifeline customers Qwest has versus United and provide clarification. There were no further questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.

10. **Docket No. 70008-70-TA-17 (Record No. 14801). Union Telephone Company 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Documents (Petition)***. Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company submitted a complete filing and has elected to receive model support. Union Telephone has also provided a five-year plan for both companies and it has a small amount of Lifeline business. Deputy Chair Fornstrom asked for the amount of Lifeline customers as the number was missing from the table in the Commission Staff *Memo* and Asay responded there are 17. Wilson said he would fill in the table. There were no further questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
11. **Docket No. 62006-28-RA-17 (Record No. 14802). Union Telephone Company d/b/a Union Wireless 2017 Wyoming eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Documents (Petition)***. Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Union Wireless division filed its own application which provided complete information and showed how it has been building out its network across the state. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
12. **Docket No. 70005-45-TA-17 (Record No. 14803). Chugwater Telephone Company, 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Documents (Petition)***. Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated Chugwater is a small company that filed a complete application with precise information and included a five-year plan. Chugwater elected to receive model support. It reported no Lifeline customers. There were no questions. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of 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.
13. **Docket No. 62096-3-RA-17 (Record No. 14786). Boomerang Wireless, LLC d/b/a enTouch Wireless 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification.**

Commission to consider and act on ETC filing. Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated Boomerang Wireless is a Lifeline only wireless only universal service fund provider, which was designated last year as an ETC. Since then, it has grown from zero to 2000 customers. The Company provided information regarding marketing and outreach. 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.

14. **Docket No. 70001-99-TA-17 (Record No. 14788). Range Telephone Cooperative, Inc., 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company filed a complete application and provided a five-year plan. It has some Lifeline customers and received approximately 2.5 million dollars in support but spent more than it received. Liz Zerga, Counsel for Range Telephone, commented Range has an aggressive build out schedule resulting in higher expenditures. 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.
15. **Docket No. 70015-99-TA-17 (Record No. 14789). RT Communications, Inc., 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated the Company filed a complete application with all requirements met. RT Communications has a small number of Lifeline customers, provided a five-year plan, and reported one outage due to an equipment failure at a customer's location. There is a map on file. 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.
16. **Docket No. 70007-79-TA-17 (Record No. 14790). Dubois Telephone Exchange, Inc., 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated Dubois Telephone Exchange filed a complete application with all required information. The Company has a small number of Lifeline customers. 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. Chairman Russell directed consideration of the next docket item back to Item #7.
17. **Docket No. 62057-6-RA-17 (Record No. 14798). Uintah Basin Electronic Telecommunications, LLC 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated this is a wireless provider and it is hoping to win bids in a future auction. It has never received any federal high cost support. He said the filing included all required information. 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.

18. **Docket No. 62061-6-RA-17 (Record No. 14835). Tempo Telecom, LLC 2017 annual eligible telecommunications carrier certification. Commission to consider and act on ETC filing.** Tom Wilson, CS, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 15, 2017. Wilson stated this is a Lifeline only wireless only provider. He said the Company has not had much business until this year and now has 64 customers in Wyoming. It provided all other required information. 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.

Prepared by: Barbara Tomlinson

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, September 28, 2017

ACCEPTED and APPROVED by the Commission on November 9, 2017.

Chairman William F. Russell

WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Open Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2017
1:30 p.m.

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

Michael Easley, Chief Executive Officer, Powder River Energy Corporation (PRE-Corp) (by telephone)
Jane France, Counsel, Wyoming Gas Company
Leslie Graham, General Manager, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)
Janeen Capshaw, Executive Vice President, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)
Gordon Neumann, Engineering Manager, Wyoming Gas Company (by telephone)
Garret Frescoln, Vice President, Frannie Deaver Utilities (by telephone)
James Elliott, Manager of Regulatory, Black Hills Gas Distribution

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

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Docket No. 10014-184-CS-17 (Record No. 14833). Application of Powder River Energy Corporation for authority to borrow \$55,750,000 from the Federal Financing Bank and for authority to execute agreements to secure loan. Commission to consider issuance of an order continuing this matter beyond thirty (30) days pursuant to W.S. § 37-6-104.**

John Burbridge, Commission Counsel, stated that the motion is for a continuance as staff is working with PRE-Corp regarding the Company's financials. Michael Easley, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the Company concurs with the extension and noted the delay was caused by changes in the loan application. Mr. Easley stated that the end date is 30 days from October 11. Mr. Burbridge recommended granting the continuance by *Order* only, effective October 11, 2017. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

- 2. Docket No. 30009-61-GP-17 (Record No. 14825). Application of Natural Gas Processing Co., through its division Wyoming Gas Company for authority to pass on a wholesale gas cost increase of \$0.0031 per CCF through its Commodity Balancing**

account. Commission to consider and act on Application, *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Transaction Confirmation for Immediate Delivery (Petition)* filed on August 29, 2017, and *Petition for Confidential Treatment of a Certain Data Response Exhibit (Petition)* filed on September 19, 2017.

Kara Seveland, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 22, 2017. Jane France, Counsel for Wyoming Gas, stated that page 4, paragraph 4, line 4 in the Staff Memo should read “five year” not “four year”. Janeen Capshaw, Executive Vice President for Wyoming Gas, stated that the Company requests a net increase effective October 1, 2017, due to a combination of a gas cost decrease and a decrease to the CBA credit. Lori Brand, Commission Counsel, recommend approval of the Application and granting of the *Petitions* for use on and after October 1, 2017, by *Notice* and *Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

3. Docket No. 30007-127-GP-17 (Record No. 14824). Application of Frannie Deaver Utilities for authority to pass on an increase of its natural gas cost of \$0.0589 per MCF to its customers. Commission to consider and act on Application.

Jess Bottom, Commission Staff, provided a technical *Memo* dated September 22, 2017. Garrett Frescoln gave a summary of the application. Mr. Bottom stated that the operating ratio is very close to 1 and encouraged the Company to keep an eye on the financials and consider an application to relieve the low earnings rate. Mr. Frescoln stated that the Company is currently communicating internally about meeting operating ratios and are expecting to communicate with Staff about a possible rate increase. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the Application by *Notice* and *Order*, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

4. Docket No. 30022-278-GT-16 (Record No. 14517). Tariff filing of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC (BHGD) pursuant to revised Commission Rules and Regulations effective March 21, 2016. Commission to consider and act on tariff filing.

Kara Seveland, Morgan Fish, Marci Norby, and Michelle Bohanan, Commission Staff, provided a technical Memo dated September 25, 2017. James Elliott, BHGD’s Manager of Regulatory, presented the Company’s revised tariffs. Steve Mink, Commission Counsel, recommended approval of the tariff filing with the following recommendations:

- Point #s 1-4, 9-12, 14-16, 18-21 and 22-23 from the Summary Sheet, have been adopted by the Company;
- Point #s 5-8, 13 and 22 have been adopted but the Company and Commission Staff will work together on appropriate language;
- Point # 17 adopted but the Company requested more time to establish a regulatory plan; and
- All housekeeping items were adopted.

Mr. Mink recommended all of the above by *Order* only, effective immediately. Deputy Chair Fornstrom amended the recommendation to include the Company submit compliance filings with the recommended adjustments within 30 days with the exception of point 17 which will have a compliance deadline of 6 months. Deputy Chair Fornstrom moved to act

as recommended. Commissioner Cooley seconded the motion and Chairman Russell concurred.

Prepared by: Sylvia Sanchez

Date of Next Open Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2017

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

Chairman William F. Russell