

March 31, 2004

The Public Service Commission convened in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, on March 31, 2004, 10:00 a.m. Present were Commissioners Clark, Wefald, and Cramer.

Minutes

Mrs. Wefald: I move the minutes of March 17, 2004, be approved.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Bills

Mrs. Wefald: I move the following bills, as reviewed by the Commission, be approved and paid:

Regional Oversight Committee	130.00
Interstate Mining Compact Commission	175.00
ND Newspaper Association	2,905.90
Leo Praus	495.20
Bruce Beechie	734.06
Central Services – 2/04 printing	628.62
Central Services – 2/04 supplies	231.19
DOT	8,531.54

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AU-04-135
Rodney Burgad - Auctioneer
License Application

Mrs. Wefald: I move the Commission approve the auctioneer license application for Rodney Burgad, Wishek, North Dakota.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-97
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a
Division of MDU
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application

Mrs. Wefald: I move the Commission suspend Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s rates filed with its Natural Gas Rate Increase application in Case No. PU-04-97.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-97
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a
Division of MDU
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application
Notices Issued

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Hearing, Notice of Public Input Sessions, and Notice of Intervention Deadline in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s Natural Gas Rate Increase Application, Case No. PU-04-97.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-97
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a
Division of MDU
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application
Request for Proposal

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission issue a Request for Proposal for consulting services in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s Natural Gas Rate Increase application, Case No. PU-04-97.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-97
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a
Division of MDU
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application
Execute Contract

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission execute a contract with Snavelly King Majoros O'Connor & Lee, Inc. for consulting services in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s Natural Gas Rate Increase Application, Case No. PU-04-97.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-109
Basin Electric Power Coop Inc.
Antelope Valley Station Water Pipeline-
Mercer County.
Siting Application
Access Fine

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission assess a filing fee of \$60,000 due upon filing of the application in Case No. PU-04-109, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s proposed Antelope Valley Station water pipeline in Mercer County North Dakota.

Mrs. Wefald: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-117
Great Plains Natural Gas Co.
March 2004
Cost of Gas Adjustment

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission approve Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s Cost of Gas adjustment for March 2004, Case No. PU-04-117.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-2077-03-636
WWC Holding Co., Inc.
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application
Valuation Billing

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission bill WWC Holding Co., Inc. for costs incurred to date in Case No. PU-2077-03-636, WWC Holding Co., Inc., Designated Eligible Carrier, Application.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-1226-03-597
Northwest Dakota Cellular of North
Dakota Limited
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission bill Tom D. Kelsch, Attorney, for costs incurred to date in the above captioned applications.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-386-03-598
North Central RSA 2 of ND Limited
Partnership
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-897-03-599
North Dakota RSA No. 3 Limited
Partnership
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-1225-03-600
Badlands Cellular of North Dakota
Limited Partners
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case Continued

Case No. PU-338-03-601
North Dakota 5 - Kidder Limited
Partnership
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-494-03-602
Bismarck MSA Limited Partnership
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application
Valuation Billings

Case No. RR-439-03-271
Rail Rates on Grain
Investigation

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission hire Jon H. Mielke, 732 Juniper Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58503, for part-time employment with the Public Service Commission, in the Rail Rates on Grain Investigation, Case No. RR-439-03-271. Employment will be for a period from April 1, 2004, at a salary of \$75 per hour.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Salary Adjustment

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission authorize a temporary salary adjustment effective March 8, 2004, for Susan Richter, reflecting her appointment as Interim Licensing Director.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Reorganization
Strategic Planning

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission retain Dr. Robert Kweit and Dr. Mary Kweit of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs at the University of North Dakota as facilitators to assist the Commission in its reorganization strategic planning.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-04-97
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a
Division of MDU Re
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application
Staff Appointments

Mr. Cramer: I move the Commission appoint Bill Binek and Patrick Fahn as advocacy staff and Mike Diller, Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco, and Jerry Lein as advisory staff in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s s Natural Gas Rate Increase application in Case No. PU-04-97.

Mr. Clark: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

March 31, 2004

Page 4

ATTEST

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 11:50 A.M.

Executive Secretary

TONY T. CLARK, PRESIDENT