

February 22, 2023

The Public Service Commission convened in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, on February 22, 2023, 10:02 a.m. Present were Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart and Fedorchak.

Minutes

Mr. Christmann: I move the minutes of February 8, 2023, be approved.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Blaster Certification / Re-Certification
Approval

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission to approve blaster certification and re-certification for the following applicants:

Applicant	Affiliation	Certificate No.
Jerry Praus	Freedom Mine	23-02-446
Lee Kopp	Falkirk Mine	23-02-443
Jeremy Germain	Falkirk Mine	23-02-444
Travis Lennie	Falkirk Mine	23-02-445
Bryce Eckholm	Falkirk Mine	08-09-306-R(5)
Brant Hanson	Falkirk Mine	17-12-405-R(2)
Rod Zeien	Falkirk Mine	02-11-262-R(7)

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Compliance Division
Auctioneer and Auction Clerk Update

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission acknowledge the issuance of the following new auction licenses, all of which became effective during the month of January 2023.

AUCTIONEER LICENSE

Auctioneer Name	Location	Effective Date
Joseph Schonert	Baldwin, ND	1/1/2023

AUCTION CLERK LICENSE

Auction Clerk Name	Location	Effective Date
Connie Stober	Goodrich, ND	1/1/2023

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-3
Qwest Corporation
QPAP Payments 2022
Reports

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Qwest Corporation, QPAP Payments 2022, Reports, Case No. PU-22-3.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-20
Qwest Corporation
PIDs & PAP
Cancellation / Application

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Qwest Corporation, PIDs & PAP, Cancellation/Application, Case No. PU-22-20.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AM-22-21
Public Service Commission
2022 Garrison Phase 5 AML
Project

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission close Case No. AM-22-21 for the 2022 Garrison Phase 5 Abandoned Mine Lands Project, in Public Service Commission, 2022 Garrison Phase 5 AML, Project, Case No. AM-22-21.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AM-22-24
Public Service Commission
2022 Exploratory Drilling AML
Project

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission close Case No. AM-22-24 for the 2022 Exploratory Drilling Abandoned Mine Lands Project, in Public Service Commission, 2022 Exploratory Drilling AML, Project, Case No. AM-22-24.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-35
Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-35.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-40
Red River Rural Telephone Association
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Red River Rural Telephone Association, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-40.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-41
Midcontinent Communications
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Midcontinent Communications, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-41.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-42
West River Telecommunications
Cooperative
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in West River Telecommunications Cooperative, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-42.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-65
Halstad Telephone Company
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Halstad Telephone Company, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-65.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-66
Qwest Corporation
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Qwest Corporation, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-66.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-68
Griggs County Telephone Co.
2022 High-Cost Universal Services
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Griggs County Telephone Co., 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-68.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-237
Loretel Systems, Inc.
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Loretel Systems, Inc., 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-237.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-243
RC Technologies Corporation
2022 High-Cost Universal Service
Support
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in RC Technologies Corporation, 2022 High-Cost Universal Service Support, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-243.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AM-23-73
Public Service Commission
2023 Exploratory Drilling AML
Project

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission initiate Case No. AM-23-73 for the 2023 Exploratory Drilling AML Project for reclamation of abandoned mine lands in Public Service Commission, 2023 Exploratory Drilling AML, Project, PSC Case No. AM-23-73.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-183
Northern States Power Company
2021 Electric
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Northern States Power Company, 2021 Electric, Annual Report, Case No. PU-22-183.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-185
Northern States Power Company
Competitive Response Rider (CRR)
Tariff and Rates

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Northern States Power Company, Competitive Response Rider (CRR), Tariff and Rates, Case No. PU-22-185.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-311
Northern States Power Company
2021 Power Purchase Agreement
Costs
Compliance

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Northern States Power Company, 2021 Power Purchase Agreement Costs, Compliance, Case No. PU-22-311.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-312
Otter Tail Power Company
Advanced Grid Infrastructure Cost
Recovery Rider
Tariff and Rates

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Otter Tail Power Company, Advanced Grid Infrastructure Cost Recovery Rider, Tariff and Rates, Case No. PU-22-312.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-367
Otter Tail Power Company
Economic Development
Rates

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Otter Tail Power Company, Economic Development, Rates, Case No. PU-22-367.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-368
Northern States Power Company
Renewable Resource Cost Recovery
(2023)
Rates

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Northern States Power Company, Renewable Resource Cost Recovery (2023), Rates, Case No. PU-22-368.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-419
Northern States Power Company
Cogeneration - Small Power
Production
Rates

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission approve Northern States Power Company's annual update of cogeneration and small power production rate schedules effective March 1, 2023, in Northern States Power Company, Cogeneration - Small Power Production, Rates, Case No. PU-22-419.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-371
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Electric Service Agreement - Applied
Blockchain
Approval

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Protection of Information in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Electric Service Agreement - Applied Blockchain, Approval, Case No. PU-22-371.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-21-424
Dakota Natural Gas, LLC
Natural Gas Facilities - Portland, ND -
Traill Cnty
Public Convenience & Necessity

Withdrawn

Case No. PU-22-15
Dakota Natural Gas, LLC
Cost of Gas 2022
Tariff Monthly Adjustments

Withdrawn

Case No. PU-22-393
Public Service Commission
Bright Sound Communications, Inc.
Complaint

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Ex Parte Cease and Desist Order in Public Service Commission, Bright Sound Communications, Inc., Complaint, Case No. PU-22-393.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. RC-23-48
Falkirk Mining Company
Variance, Permit NAFK-8405
Application

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission approve The Falkirk Mining Company's request for a variance to the ten-year revegetation responsibility period for 4.5 acres of reclaimed cropland located in the SW¼ of Section 22, T146N, R82W, McLean County where revegetation was delayed until a topsoil stockpile (0.2 acres) and a temporary haulroad (4.3 acres) were removed and reclaimed, in Falkirk Mining Company, Variance, Permit NAFK-8405, Application, Case No. RC-23-48.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-12-241
Allete, Inc.
Bison 2 Wind Project – Oliver & Morton
Decommissioning Plan & Cost

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I move the Commission approve the amended request to approve the financial assurance filed on February 2, 2023, in Allete, Inc., Bison 2 Wind Project - Oliver & Morton, Decommissioning Plan & Cost, Case No. PU-12-241, and further move the Commission approve the amended request to approve the financial assurance filed on February 2, 2023, in Allete, Inc., Bison 3 Wind Project – Oliver & Morton, Decommissioning Plan & Cost, Case No. PU-18-232.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-401
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Renewable Resource Cost Recovery
Rates

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I move the Commission adopt the Order in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Renewable Resource Cost Recovery, Rates, Case No. PU-22-401.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-23-44
Northern States Power Company
Customer Credit – DOE Settlement
2021
Application

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing in Northern States Power Company, Customer Credit – DOE Settlement 2021, Application, Case No. PU-23-044.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-22-371
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Electric Service Agreement - Applied
Blockchain
Approval

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I move the Commission adopt the Interim Order in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Electric Service Agreement – Applied Blockchain, Approval, Case No. PU-22-371.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-17-192
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Thunder Spirit Wind Project
Siting Application

Bureau of Land Management
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement
Comments Submittal

ATTEST


Executive Secretary

Ms. Fedorchak: I move the Commission adopt the Order on Consent Agreement in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Thunder Spirit Wind Project, Siting Application, Case No. PU-17-192.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission assign Director Zanna Brinkman to file comments with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the draft Resource Management Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement for BLM public lands and resources managed by the BLM North Dakota Field Office.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 11:00 A.M.


RANDY CHRISTMANN, CHAIR