

September 11, 2024

The Public Service Commission convened in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, on September 11, 2024, 10:02 a.m. Present were Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart and Fedorchak.

Minutes

Mr. Christmann: I move the minutes of August 28, 2024, be approved.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-10-491
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Cedar Hills Wind Project - Bowman
County, ND
Decommissioning Plan & Cost

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission approve the decommissioning plan, cost estimate, and self-guaranty filed on August 16, 2024, in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Cedar Hills Wind Project - Bowman County, ND, Decommissioning Plan & Cost, Case No. PU-10-491.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-18-105
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Thunder Spirit Wind, Adams County
Decommissioning Plan & Cost

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission approve the decommissioning plan, cost estimate, and self-guaranty filed on August 16, 2024, in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Thunder Spirit Wind, Adams County, Decommissioning Plan & Cost, Case No. PU-18-105.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-176
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
2023 Electric
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission close the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., 2023 Electric, Annual Report, Case No. PU-24-176.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-310
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Joe Sutherland - Kidder County
Public Convenience & Necessity

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission issue a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing in Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Joe Sutherland – Kidder County, Public Convenience & Necessity, Case No. PU-24-310.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-175
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
2023 Gas
Annual Report

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission close the Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., 2023 Gas, Annual Report, Case No. PU-24-175.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. AM-23-358
Public Service Commission
2024 Exploratory Drilling AML
Project

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission close Case No. AM-23-358 for the 2024 Exploratory Drilling Abandoned Mine Lands Project, in Public Service Commission, 2024 Exploratory Drilling AML, Project, Case No. AM-23-358.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. RC-24-92
Leonardite Products LLC
Bond Release 2, Permit GRGR-0501
Application

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission approve Bond Release 2 for Surface Coal Mining Permit GRGR-0501, held by Leonardite Products, LLC for the Stony Creek Mine, to release all reclamation liabilities on 28.9 acres of industrial land located in the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 8, T154N, R100W, Williams County. The bond release amount is \$142,945 and it will become effective October 11, 2024, unless a formal hearing is requested, in Leonardite Products LLC, Bond Release 2, Permit GRGR-0501, Application, Case No. RC-24-092.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-15
Public Service Commission
USF Use Certification 47 CFR 54.314
(2025)
Compliance

Mr. Christmann: I move the Commission adopt the Order Certifying Use of Federal Universal Services Support in Public Service Commission, USF Use Certification 47 CFR 54.314 (2025), Compliance, Case No. PU-24-15.

Ms. Fedorchak: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-322
Nemont Telephone/Missouri
Valley/Northwest Comm
Multiple Exchanges
Public Convenience & Necessity

Mr. Christmann: Believing that there will be no prejudice to the rights of the parties or the public interest, and finding the cases involve similar questions of law and fact, I move the Commission consolidate these cases for hearing under North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-04-04 and issue a Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing in Nemont Telephone/Missouri Valley/Northwest Comm, Multiple Exchanges, Public Convenience & Necessity, Case No. PU-24-322, and Nemont Telephone/Missouri Valley/Northwest Comm, Designated Eligible Carrier, Application, Case No. PU-24-323.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.

Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

Case No. PU-24-323
Nemont Telephone/Missouri
Valley/Northwest Comm
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-24-319
Reservation Tel / Midstate Tel /
Midstate Comm
Stanley, Medora and Beach
Exchanges
Public Convenience & Necessity

Case No. PU-24-320
Reservation Tel / Midstate Tel /
Midstate Comm
Designated Eligible Carrier
Application

Case No. PU-24-181
Northern States Power / Cass County
Electric Coop
Fargo, North Dakota
Service Area Agreement

Case No. PU-24-87
Badger Wind, LLC
Amend-Badger Wind Project-Logan &
McIntosh
Siting Application

Case No. PU-24-187
Northern States Power Company
Accounting for a Gas Pipeline Interim
Rate Refund
Approval

ATTEST


Executive Secretary

Mr. Christmann: Believing that there will be no prejudice to the rights of the parties or the public interest, and finding the cases involve similar questions of law and fact, I move the Commission consolidate these cases for hearing under North Dakota Administrative Code Section 69-02-04-04 and issue a Notice of Opportunity for Consolidated Hearing in Reservation Tel / Midstate Tel / Midstate Comm, Stanley, Medora and Beach Exchanges, Public Convenience & Necessity, Case No. PU-24-319, and Reservation Tel / Midstate Tel / Midstate Comm, Designated Eligible Carrier, Application, Case No. PU-24-320.

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

WITHDRAWN

Ms. Fedorchak: I move the Commission adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in Badger Wind, LLC, Amend-Badger Wind Project-Logan & McIntosh, Siting Application, Case No. PU-24-87.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.
Roll Call: Mr. Christmann votes "Nay".
Ms. Haugen-Hoffart votes "Aye".
Ms. Fedorchak votes "Aye".

Ms. Fedorchak: I move the Commission adopt the Order in Northern States Power Company, Accounting for a Gas Pipeline Interim Rate Refund, Approval, Case No. PU-24-187.

Ms. Haugen-Hoffart: I second the motion.
Roll Call: All voting "Aye."

THE COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 11:19 A.M.


RANDY CHRISTMANN, CHAIR