



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Committee of Consumer Services

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of Consumer Services held at the Heber M Wells Building, Room #2B, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah, on Thursday, December 11, 2008

Members of the Committee in Attendance:

Kelly Casaday (by phone)	Robert McMullin	Roz McGee
Andrew Riggle	Franz Amussen	

Staff in Attendance:

Michele Beck	Ronnie Drake	Cheryl Murray
Eric Orton	Paul Proctor (by phone)	

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Steve Bateson, Questar Gas
Dave Taylor, Rocky Mountain Power
Sara Baldwin, Utah Clean Energy

1. Welcome and Business

Kelly Casaday, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He then amended the agenda to address item #4, the selection of vice chair, next.

2. Selection of Vice Chair

Kelly Casaday called for nominations for vice-chair. Robert McMullin nominated Franz Amussen. Andrew Riggle seconded. Franz abstained from voting and was elected vice-chair unanimously by all voting members. Since Kelly was participating via phone, he asked Franz to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

3. Minutes

Robert McMullin made a motion to approve the October minutes with the one minor typographical error corrected. Andrew Riggle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Robert McMullin made a motion to approve the November minutes with one formatting error corrected. Roz McGee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public offered comment.

5. Case Updates

Michele Beck provided updates on several ongoing cases and issues. First, she noted that it had been one year since the legislative audit of the Committee and she had been asked by the auditors to provide status on their recommendations. Most of the recommendations would require legislative action, which has not occurred to date. The recommendations that could be acted upon by the Committee and staff are all in process or partially completed. The discussion scheduled for later in the meeting on outreach also related to an audit recommendation.

Michele Beck also provided an update on several major cases. First, she gave a brief overview of the updated filing made on Monday by Rocky Mountain Power in its ongoing 2008 rate case. The Committee will receive more detailed briefings on the various subjects in upcoming meetings. Also, Rocky Mountain Power filed for approval of a new significant resource. The proposed resource is another combined cycle plant at the existing Lakeside site and is the result of a long, ongoing RFP process. Staff will begin its analysis and bring more details and recommendations to the Committee in an upcoming meeting. Michele also mentioned that no order had been issued in the Questar rate case (COS/rate design portion) and that a well-publicized order had been issued in the Questar transponder investigation accepting with modification the settlement.

Michele Beck also gave an overview of some recent policy forums. In particular, she noted a presentation by Kimball Rasmussen, CEO of Deseret G&T, regarding climate change at the November PUTIC meeting and how it seemed to be well received and moved the discussion away from the emotional aspects of the issue and toward the cost/benefit analysis of the issue. Also noted was a speaker from Regulatory Assistance Project who specifically called out consumer advocates and the NASUCA as being impediments to energy efficiency.

6. Committee outreach and consumer education

Michele Beck introduced the subject by referring to the wishes of many parties (including herself, individual Committee members, others in the regulatory community and the legislative audit) to see an increase in the outreach and consumer education functions of the Committee. However, she noted that the goals and audience were not yet clearly defined and needed to be approached more methodically. Therefore, she proposed discontinuing the newsletter indefinitely and taking a new approach to this issue. After her introduction, the Committee had a roundtable discussion (including some comments from staff and the audience) of the issue. The topics and discussion included the following:

- Meet with business groups
- Community councils
- Hard to get invitations, interest – even so, would take very long time to visit everyone
- Needs and satisfactions surveys

- PSAs only on in the middle of the night, try to get coverage from places people pay attention to like ksl editorial board
- Don't just focus on advertising the Committee, pair with useful information to help consumers manage their consumption
- If your message is managing energy consumption, could partner with utilities, who are already doing that and leverage money (suggestion from a utility rep)
- Could partner with a variety of other interested groups

The Committee concluded that staff should proceed with an RFP for consumer survey work and that the next step would be to RFP for advertising/PR work for messaging and print design with options to expand even further.

7. Potential Legislation for the 2009 Session

7a. Background

Michele Beck discussed potential legislation relating to Committee issues that have been rumored or discussed within the energy and regulatory community. These include legislation that could address the following issues: transmission siting, clarifying the definition of transmission, utility sponsored regulatory reform, natural gas vehicle, energy efficiency, reversal of 801/385 overlay decision. Michele also indicated that Rocky Mountain Power had begun discussions with regulators, industrial consumers, and Questar to address the issues they would like to consider in legislation.

7b. Closed Session for the purpose of reviewing, hearing and considering protected and privileged materials and communications.

Andrew Riggle made a motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Roz McGee and passed unanimously. The chair indicated that the Committee would take a ten minute break and then go into closed session. The closed session began at 11:00. Robert McMullin made a motion to end the closed session. Andrew McMullin seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Committee remained in closed session for approximately 25 minutes. No motions were made regarding the discussions held.

8. Other Business/Adjourn

The Committee also addressed the schedule of its upcoming meetings. To accommodate timing in rate case for key issues and feedback from the Committee as well as legislative schedules, two meetings will be held in January: January 8 and January 29. The February 12 meeting is canceled and will be re-scheduled on an as-needed basis. The March 12 meeting is still scheduled for now. March 12 is the last day of the legislative session and the meeting may need to be rescheduled if any pressing legislative issues remain.

Robert McMullin made a motion to adjourn. Roz McGee seconded and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35.