



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Consumer Services

MICHELE BECK
Director

Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah Committee of Consumer Services
Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Casaday	Dennis Nordfelt
Carolyn Hunter	Kirsten Peterson
Robert McMullin (by phone)	Andrew Riggle

Staff in Attendance:

Michele Beck	Eric Orton
Dan Gimble	Bela Vastag
Danny Martinez	

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Sophie Hayes, Utah Clean Energy
Betsy Wolf, Salt Lake Community Action Program

The attached powerpoint presentation was used to facilitate this meeting and is incorporated by reference into these minutes.

1. Welcome & Business

Kelly Casady welcomed Committee members and members of the public.

2. Minutes

Dennis Nordfelt made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the Committee's May 26th meeting. Carolyn Hunter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Case Updates

Michele Beck provided an update on the energy assistance programs administered by Questar and Rocky Mountain Power and some recent changes made to the programs. Michele also outlined the recent Questar filings impacting the rates being charged associated with the passthrough, CET, and pipeline integrity project. She briefed the Committee on a recent national collaborative on grid modernization issues in which the Office participated. Finally, time was allotted for any follow up questions regarding the Rocky Mountain Power rate case that was settled over the summer. No questions were raised. Additional follow up on the DSM cost-benefit tests will be sent out once the work is complete.

4. Determination of Utility Customer Charge Component (Basic Service Fee)

Dan Martinez gave a presentation providing some background on how customer charges are determined in utility ratemaking and recent history on how the issue has been handled in Questar and Rocky Mountain Power cases. He explained that the issue is undergoing further discussion and analysis and the Office will be developing a consistent, principle-based position on the calculation of the customer charge component of rates.

5. Briefing: PacifiCorp Integrated Resource Plan

Dan Gimble and Bela Vastag provided the Committee with a thorough briefing on PacifiCorp resource plan issues. They gave an overview of the purpose of resource planning, the IRP process followed by PacifiCorp in Utah and the results of the IRP that was recently filed with the Commission. They also explained the concerns and criticisms identified by the Office.

6. Introduction to Universal Service Fund Issues

Eric Orton gave a presentation providing an overview and background of the federal and state universal service fund, including their history, method of calculation and uses. Eric explained that the funds are under increasing stress and the Office will continue to monitor state and federal policy initiatives impacting the funds and anticipates taking a more active role in future Utah rural telecom rate cases as the telecom companies are requesting increasing levels of USF funding.

7. Closed Meeting

A closed meeting was noticed in case issues were raised regarding the Rocky Mountain Power rate case or PacifiCorp IRP that needed to be kept confidential. No such issues were raised and the Committee did not go into closed session.

8. Schedule Future Meetings

The Committee scheduled its next meeting for Tuesday, December 13th at 9:00 am. The 2012 meetings will be scheduled at that time.

9. Adjourn

Andrew Riggle made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.