



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
Thursday, September 20, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Stephen Christensen (by phone)	Robert McMullin	Kirsten Peterson
Carolyn Hunter	Dennis Nordfelt	Andrew Riggle

Staff in Attendance:

Michele Beck	Eric Orton	Cheryl Murray
Dan Gimble	Bela Vastag	

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Sophie Hayes, Utah Clean Energy
Danny Harris, AARP
Betsy Wolf, Salt Lake Community Action Program
Barrie McKay, Questar Gas

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

1. Welcome & Business

Andrew Riggle, vice-chair and acting chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Committee members and the public.

2. Minutes

Carolyn Hunter complimented staff on the high quality of the minutes. Dennis Nordfelt made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Robert McMullin and passed unanimously.

3. Case Updates

Michele Beck provided an update on recent cases including: the most recent Questar passthrough, establishment of the Questar heating season credit for its low-income program, ETC Lifeline dockets, Dex One has begun distributing white pages only upon request, the EBA order denying interim rates, the ongoing IRP analysis, and a recent solar incentive program supported by the Office. Ms. Beck also provided updates on policy discussions regarding updates to the energy code and telecom taxes and fees, both of which may become issues at the next legislative session. Finally, Ms. Beck gave an overview of recent and upcoming filings including two voluntary approvals regarding Significant Energy Resource Decisions, a request for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a transmission line from Sigurd to Red Butte and the Wexpro II filing discussed later in the meeting.

4. Manti Telephone Universal Service Fund Request

Eric Orton provided an overview of Manti Telephone's long-running general rate case and request for state USF distribution as well as an overview of the current issues identified by staff.

5. Telecom Policy Objectives

Michele Beck provided background information and policy questions to frame an initial discussion about a more specific policy objective related to the use of state USF. The Committee engaged in further discussion and identified additional information that would be helpful to inform their thinking. The discussion will continue in subsequent meetings.

6. Recent Filing: New Wexpro II Agreement

Michele Beck provided background, history and an overview of the operations of the current Wexpro Agreement, including its impact on historical rates. Ms. Beck also gave an overview of the background leading to the recently filed Wexpro II agreement. She indicated the Office's initial view is that 1) additional cost-of-service gas resources could provide long-term benefits for Questar's customers; 2) the Office cannot support the Wexpro II agreement in its current form because it does not conform with Utah utility law; and 3) the Office does not support signing any agreement prior to filing with Commission, preferring instead for the issues to be addressed in a public process. The issue is too recently filed to predict how the process will go forward.

7. Coming Soon: New Website

Michele Beck demonstrated the current version of the new office website. Although the most recent goal of a July launch was not met, the website is now close to being launched. Committee members will be notified by email when the new site is up and running.

8. Upcoming Workload

Michele Beck gave a brief overview of the scope of workload anticipated for the remainder of 2012 and 2013.

9. Other Business and Adjourn

The Committee discussed scheduling its next Committee meeting sooner than would be typical, perhaps in early November. The Committee acknowledged that a closed session would most likely be necessary to discuss some of the issues raised at today's meeting. The actual scheduling will take place by email exchange. Carolyn Hunter made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.