



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
Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Kelly Casaday	Robert McMullin	Andrew Riggle
Stephen Christensen	Dennis Nordfelt	
Carolyn Hunter	Kirsten Peterson	

Staff in Attendance:

Michele Beck	Cheryl Murray	Bela Vastag
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Members of the Public in Attendance:

Kelly Mendenhall, Questar Gas
Danny Harris, AARP
Betsy Wolf, Salt Lake Community Action Program
Sophie Hayes, Utah Clean Energy
Raenee Buarske, Utah Office of Energy Development
Jeff Barrett, Utah Office of Energy Development

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, called the meeting to order and welcomed Committee members and the public.

2. Minutes

Dennis Nordfelt made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the November 28, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Hunter and passed unanimously.

3. Case & Legislative Updates

Michele Beck provided an update on recent cases including: Wexpro II, a settlement regarding the CPCN for Sigurd-Red Butte, a settlement regarding Rocky Mountain Power's request for pre-approval of long-term natural gas contracts, the current status of the Manti Telecom rate case, the current status of the voluntary request for pre-approval of environmental upgrades at the Jim Bridger plant, and the recent REC Balancing Account and Energy Balancing Account filings. Michele Beck also provided an explanation of five pieces of legislation with potential impacts on the work of the office: HB202, HB284 and SB 275 all of which passed this session and HB110 and SB199 that did not move forward.

4. RMP: New Irrigator Load Control Tariff

Michele Beck, with the assistance of other staff, provided an explanation of Rocky Mountain Power's proposal for a new irrigator load control tariff including the Office's concerns, some of which have been addressed and others which will require ongoing monitoring.

5. RMP: Request to Change Calculation of Renewable Avoided Cost

Bela Vastag provided an overview of the issues pertaining to this current case that is expected to be complex and somewhat contentious. His overview included background about PURPA and Qualifying Facilities, a review of phase one from this case and an explanation of the key issues within the current phase two. The Office is finalizing its positions for phase two and will be filing testimony before the end of the month.

6. Telecom Policy Objectives

The Committee discussed a draft policy objective that was intended to capture the main points of the ongoing telecom policy discussion that has occurred over the past several meetings. The Committee was also provided summary information of how the state USF is being used in the provision of Lifeline services.

Carolyn Hunter made a motion to approve the following policy objective. Robert McMullin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The approved policy objective is as follows:

The Committee of Consumer Services supports the Utah Universal Public Telecommunications Service Support Fund (also known as the Utah USF) as a mechanism to ensure that basic telephone service is available throughout all geographic regions of the state of Utah at reasonable rates. The Committee supports the Office advocating positions to help ensure proper use of these public funds including that basic telephone service should not subsidize other products or services and that the Utah USF funds are otherwise being used efficiently.

7. Issue overview: Electric Generation Options

Michele Beck provided an overview of electric generation options, giving their key attributes, describing the challenges of comparing options on a comparable basis and providing a chart with one such comparison. This presentation was provided as background for the upcoming IRP discussion and in response to Committee member interest.

8. Closed Session

The Committee determined that it was not necessary to go into closed session.

9. Other Business and Adjourn

The Committee did not discuss any additional business. Dennis Nordfelt made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.