

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Utilities Commission convened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m. on August 18, 2009, in Room 414 of the State Capitol Building.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the Commission's proposed pipeline safety rules.

The hearing was conducted by Chairman Dustin Johnson. Commissioners Gary Hanson and Steve Kolbeck were also present.

Others in attendance: Sara Greff Dannen and Melissa Barutch, representing NorthWestern Energy; Dave Gerdes, representing Montana-Dakota Utilities; Rolayne Ailts Wiest, Commission Attorney; Kara Semmler, Staff Attorney; Nathan Solem, Pipeline Safety Program Manager; and Stacy Splittstoesser, Staff Engineer.

Written Comments

The Commission received written comments from MidAmerican Energy Company stating that it supports the rules.

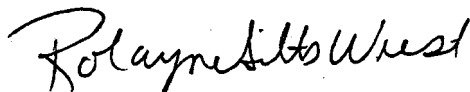
Oral Comments

At the hearing, Stacy Splittstoesser, PUC, requested that the words "landfill gas" be deleted and replaced with the word "proposed" for 20:10:37:18(1)(f). Nathan Solem, PUC, asked that the change to 20:10:37:10 as proposed by LRC not be adopted because the original language matches the federal language. For 20:10:37:06, he recommended changing "within a reasonable time" to "within 90 days" regarding the timeline for when an inspector shall complete a post inspection report. Kara Semmler noted that for 20:10:37:14 a pipeline operator will receive electronic notice of the inspector's incident report.

Adoption of Final Rules

At its September 8, 2009, meeting, the Commission considered the proposed rules. The Commission unanimously voted to accept the PUC staff's recommendations. The Commission replaced the words "landfill gas" with the word "proposed" for 20:10:37:18(1)(f). For 20:10:37:06, the Commission changed "within a reasonable time" to "within 90 days" regarding the timeline for when an inspector shall complete a post inspection report. The Commission also did not adopt the change to 20:10:37:10 as proposed by LRC because the original language matches the federal language. The Commission accepted the other LRC changes and suggestions, including adding a definition for "incident docket" and, for 20:10:37:14, added in that the operator's 30 days to respond to an inspector's report will start after the operator receives the report.

Respectfully submitted,



Rolayne Ailts Wiest