

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Public Utilities Commission convened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m. on November 7, 2006, in Room 412 of the State Capitol Building.

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

The hearing was conducted by Commissioner Dustin Johnson. Commissioner Gary Hanson was also present.

Others in attendance: Darla Pollman Rogers and Margo Northrup, representing the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA); David Gerdes, representing Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent), and the South Dakota Electric Utility Companies; Rolayne Ailts Wiest, SDPUC Attorney; John Smith, SDPUC Attorney; Karen Cremer, SDPUC Attorney; Harlan Best, SDPUC Analyst; and Patty Van Gerpen, SDPUC Executive Director.

Written Comments

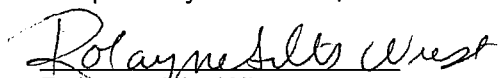
The Commission received written comments from Qwest Corporation, Midcontinent, MDU, SDREA and SDTA.

Oral Comments

Darla Pollman Rogers, representing SDTA and SDREA, stated that a party should have a choice in whether to file electronically or by paper copy. Also for electronic filings, a party should be able to file documents electronically up until midnight of the due date, not 5:00 p.m. and that there should be a rule addressing what happens if there are technical difficulties when filing documents. In addition, she stated that a party should be able to file confidential material as a paper copy, not electronically. With respect to 20:10:01:24.01, she stated that evidence that is compiled by the use of a computer program should not necessarily be allowed full electronic access of the data used since it could constitute work product.

David Gerdes, representing MDU, Midcontinent and the South Dakota Electric Utility Companies, stated that 20:10:01:02.05 should be clarified by stating that the receipt date is the filed date. He also stated that confidential documents should be allowed to be filed via paper copy instead of electronically. In addition he stated that 20:10:01:35 could be changed to provide for a certain date for Commission action on declaratory rulings or upon another date upon motion of the parties.

Respectfully submitted,


Rolayne Ailts Wiest
SDPUC Attorney