

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minutes

November 19, 2024

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Notice was duly published November 14, 2024, on page 8 of The Daily Record that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held on November 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Chair Commissioner Dan Watermeier called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with Commissioners Tim Schram, Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, and Kevin Stocker present in the Commission Hearing Room. Chair Watermeier stated that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and invited the public to address the Commission. No public comment was offered. No announcements were made.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

C-5600: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to administer the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program in the 2024-2025 program year. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order setting forth grant process and procedural schedule. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5569: In the Matter of the Application of Stratus Networks, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, seeking authority to provide competitive local exchange telecommunications services within the State of Nebraska. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an Order granting Stratus Networks, Inc.'s request to withdraw its CLEC application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

C-5605: In the Matter of the Application of Keenan Wieseler, St. Helena, seeking authority to receive telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications, Co., Inc. to enter an Order granting the application; and

C-5608: In the Matter of the Application of Sheila Schieffer, Mike Stevens, and Rita Schumacher, Crofton, each seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications service from the Hartington Exchange of Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc. Motion made by Commissioner Eric Kamler, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an Order granting the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSE-33: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to investigate the audit requirements related to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. Motion made by Commissioner

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Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order to approve and deny remittance audit waivers. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSF-92.59: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program; application to the Nebraska Broadband Program received from N.E. Colorado Cellular, Inc., d/b/a Viaero Wireless. Motion made by Commissioner Eric Kamler, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an Order granting second extension of deadline to December 7, 2025. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSF-131, PO #3: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to establish reverse auction procedures and requirements. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram to enter an Order issuing final grant awards, in part. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

PNG Telecommunications, Inc., Gabb Wireless, Inc. and Ooma, Inc.: Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker Cullen Robbins requests Commission approval to open NUSF Remittance Complaints against PNG Telecommunications, Inc., Gabb Wireless, Inc. and Ooma, Inc. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

NG-101.1: In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, opening an investigatory docket for the purpose of general monitoring of issues regarding the natural gas industry and jurisdictional utilities in Nebraska. Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, and Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy. to enter assessment order CD-6;

NG-101.2: In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion, opening an investigatory docket for the purpose of general monitoring of issues regarding the natural gas industry and jurisdictional utilities in Nebraska. NorthWestern Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy. to enter assessment order CD-4;

NG-112.4: In the Matter of Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, Rapid City, South Dakota, seeking approval of a 2025 Systems Safety and Integrity Rider. to enter assessment order CD-5; and

NG-115.1: In the Matter of the Commission, to conduct a management review of gas supply schedules implemented by NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 66-1854. Motion made by

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Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter assessment order CD-7. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

E-2506: In the Matter of the Application of Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus, seeking authority to construct, operate and maintain electric transmission lines in Jefferson County. Motion made by Commissioner Eric Kamler, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter an order cancelling the application. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NG-122: In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy Public Service Corporation d/b/a NorthWestern Energy, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, seeking approval of a natural gas general rate increase for Nebraska. Nichole Mulcahy informed the Commission a notice of extension was received from the parties that they have agreed to extend the negotiation deadline to January 4, 2025.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

B-1822.02: In the Matter of Executive Coach, LLC, Paxton, seeking to cancel its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued in Application No. B-1822. Motion made by Commissioner Kevin Stocker, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram to enter Order Cancelling Certificate. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

B-2063: In the Matter of the Application of Hands Across Nebraska, Omaha, seeking authority as a contract carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of passengers in Open Class service by SUV between all points in Nebraska over irregular routes pursuant to a contract with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, a medicaid-managed care organization under contract with NDHHS, or another agent working on behalf of NDHHS. HHS Designation: Yes. to enter an Order of Pending Dismissal;

B-2103: In the Matter of the Application of Catch a Cab, LLC, d/b/a Catch a Cab, Kearney, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of passengers in taxicab service by SUV in and between points in Adams, Buffalo, and Hall, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. HHS Designation: No. to enter an Order of Pending Dismissal; and

B-2104: In the Matter of the Application of Cosmos Coaches, LLC, Omaha, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of passengers by Bus in Charter service between all points in Nebraska over irregular routes. HHS Designation: No. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stocker to enter Order of Pending Dismissal. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

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ML-65: In the Matter of the Application of Knockout Movers LLC, Boys Town, seeking a license to provide household goods moving services in Nebraska intrastate commerce between all points in Nebraska over irregular routes. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler to enter an Order Granting License. Motion passed with Commissioners Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker, and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

Report on Motor Transportation Complaints and Railroad complaints received by the Department during the preceding Month. Dillon Keiffer-Johnson informs the Commission of the Complaints received for October, 2024.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director's recommendation to approve the 2025 Commission Meeting schedule. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Eric Kamler. Motion withdrawn by Commissioner Tim Schram with no stated objection from any other Commissioner. Motion made by Commissioner Christian Mirch, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to amend the 2025 Commission Meeting schedule to add meeting dates on March 25, April 8, June 24, July 15, and October 15, 2024. Motion passed with Commissioners Christian Mirch, Tim Schram, Kevin Stocker and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Eric Kamler voting NAY.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m. with Commissioners Tim Schram, Dan Watermeier, Eric Kamler, Christian Mirch, and Kevin Stocker present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. with an agenda to be available in the office of the Executive Director at 10:00 a.m. on December 2, 2024.



Chair



Executive Director