

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MONTANA

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November 25, 2011

Notice of Public Service Commission Roundtable

The Public Service Commission will host a public roundtable on December 6, 2011, on how proposed administrative rule changes of the Environmental Protection Agency may affect electric generation plants, regulated utilities and their customers, and citizens of Montana.

(Note: People intending to offer comments at the roundtable are asked to notify the Commission by Friday, Dec. 2. This will help the Commission plan an efficient and productive meeting. Call 406-444-7627 or e-mail bdecker@mt.gov. Thank you.)

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is charged with regulating public utilities in Montana to provide adequate service to customers at reasonable rates. The PSC scheduled this roundtable in order to increase its understanding of rule changes of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as they relate to electric generation facilities and to provide businesses, organizations, and individuals a forum for voicing questions and opinions about the rules.

The roundtable will begin with presentations from officials from EPA and Montana's Department of Environmental Quality, which plays a role in implementation of some EPA rules. Members of Montana's congressional delegation and representatives from NorthWestern Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities, the investor-owned utilities that are regulated by the PSC in Montana, have been invited to comment, and the PSC encourages any interested organizations or individuals to offer comment and participate in the roundtable.

The EPA rules to be discussed include:

- Maximum Achievable Control Technology Rule ("Utility MACT"), which includes the regulation of mercury emissions from coal-fired facilities;
- Coal Combustion Waste Rule;
- Cooling Water Intake Rule;
- Regional Haze Program ("Visibility Rule");
- Steam Electric Effluent Guidelines;
- others, as deemed relevant by roundtable participants.

In discussing the rules, the PSC seeks to learn of the rules' objectives, the findings of relevant cost/benefit analyses, and the anticipated effects of EPA rule changes in Montana.

What: PSC roundtable on recent and proposed EPA rule changes
When: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Where: Bollinger Room, Montana PSC offices, 1701 Prospect Ave., Helena