

Service Date: August 5, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Application for) REGULATORY DIVISION
Deactivation of Pipeline Service for Five Valleys)
Gas Co. at Seeley Lake, MT) DOCKET NO. D2015.3.31

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AND REQUEST HEARING

On March 30, 2015, Five Valleys Gas Co. (Five Valleys) filed with the Public Service Commission (Commission) an *Application for Deactivation of Service* (Application) for its underground propane distribution system (System) at Seeley Lake. A detailed plan for deactivation is available in Five Valleys' Application. Five Valleys seeks to deactivate its System and continue gas service to its customers through propane tanks. Five Valleys argues deactivation of the System is justified for the five following reasons:

1. No foreseeable opportunity for growth allowing further sharing of fixed costs over the system.
2. Years of company losses.
3. Gas volumes per customer are decreasing.
4. Amount of regulation to keep the pipeline in compliance.
5. Five Valleys can provide the proposed service to its customers at a comparable price through tanks compared to the System.

According to the Application, Five Valleys mailed letters to all of its customers to notify them of the deactivation proposal.

On April 9, 2015, the Commission issued a *Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline*. The Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) sought and was granted intervention in the case. Five Valleys responded to the data requests of the MCC and of PSC staff. The MCC did not file testimony.

On July 13, 2015, the Commission held a public meeting in Seeley Lake regarding the Application.

Prior to issuance of a final order in this docket, the Commission hereby provides persons affected by the proposed deactivation of Five Valleys' System with an opportunity to comment and/or to request a hearing in this matter. A copy of Five Valleys' filing is available for inspection at the PSC's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601, and may also be viewed on its website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket D2015.3.31. Any person who wants to submit comments on the filing and/or request a hearing in this matter must file the comments or request **no later than August 21, 2015**. Comments and/or requests for hearing may be submitted electronically: (1) by e-filing on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab), or (2) through the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Comment on Proceedings"). The filing party must also deliver or mail the original document in paper format to the PSC at the above address so that it is received by the filing deadline. The Commission will upload e-filed documents to the Commission's website after the paper original has been officially received at the Commission office.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner
BOB LAKE, Commissioner