

Service Date: August 11, 2015

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

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of Utility) REGULATORY DIVISION
Solutions, LLC for Approval to Sell Water and)
Sewer Systems) DOCKET NO. D2015.4.34

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a public hearing on the *Application for Approval to Sell Water and Sewer Systems* to the Elk Grove Subdivision and Four Corners County Water District. **The public hearing will commence on September 1, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Belgrade City Hall, City Council room, 91 East Central Avenue, Belgrade, Montana 59714.** The hearing will continue from day to day, as necessary.

On April 1, 2015, Utility Solutions, LLC (Utility Solutions) filed an *Application for Approval to Sell Water and Sewer Systems* with the Commission. Utility Solutions desires to sell the Elk Grove Water System, the District Water System, the Elk Grove Sewer System and the District Sewer System (each as defined in the Application) to the Four Corners County Water and Sewer District, a political subdivision of the State of Montana.

On April 7, 2015, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline for this Application. On April 28, 2015, the Commission issued a Notice of Staff Action granting intervention to the Montana Consumer Counsel and the Four Corners Water and Sewer District.

On July 24, 2015, Utility Solutions, Four Corners Water and Sewer District, and the Montana Consumer Counsel submitted a Stipulation allowing for the sale and purchase of the assets with certain conditions to the Commission for approval.

The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is provided at Title 69, MCA. The Commission has consistently exercised authority over mergers, sales, and transfers of utilities and utility property. Or. 7149c ¶ 19 (June 28, 2011). The substantive and procedural law

applicable is Title 69, MCA, especially at Ch. 3 (public utilities), ARM Title 38, Ch. 5 (utilities), Title 2, Ch. 4, MCA (MAPA), ARM Title 38, Ch. 2 (PSC procedural rules), and any prior orders of the PSC which may bear on the issues presented. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving technical evidence (testimony and exhibits) addressing the application. Testimony submitted at hearing is subject to cross-examination.

Anyone needing accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the hearing. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate individual impairments.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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