

Service Date: May 6, 2016

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

IN THE MATTER OF the Investigation of ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
the Montana Public Service Commission )  
into whether Mountain Water Company's ) DOCKET NO. D2016.2.15  
rates are Just and Reasonable )

**NOTICE OF STAFF ACTION**

On January 29, 2016, the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) voted to initiate a proceeding to inquire into whether Mountain Water Company's (Mountain Water) current water rates for its Missoula, Montana customers are just and reasonable. On January 11, 2016, the Commission received the *Joint Applicants' Notice of Closing and Withdrawal of Joint Application* (Notice) in Docket No. D2014.12.99. The Notice stated that on January 8, 2016, the sale and transfer of Western Water stock to Liberty WWH closed, with Liberty WWH merging into Western Water and Western Water continuing as the wholly-owned subsidiary of Liberty Utilities. The Commission's proceedings at that time were stayed by the Missoula District Court, the Commission had not yet completed its review of the sale and transfer.

On May 3, 2016, the Commission commenced a hearing in Missoula, Montana, to investigate whether Mountain Water's rates are just and reasonable. At the conclusion of the hearing, the following deadlines were established.

- a. May 16, 2016: Final day for simultaneous opening post hearing briefs.
- b. May 20, 2016: Final day for simultaneous response post hearing briefs.

Also at the close of the hearing, Mountain Water was formally given notice, pursuant to Mont. Admin. R. 38.2.5030, that the Commission may order confidential information removed from protection. Mont. Admin. R. 38.2.5030 states that the Commission can order confidential information removed from protection following "notice and opportunity to be heard." Mountain Water is being provided opportunity to be heard on this matter in its post hearing briefs. Parties may also address this matter in their post hearing briefs.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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