

Montana Public Service Commission  
1701 Prospect Avenue  
PO Box 202601  
Helena MT 59620-2601

For more information, contact:  
Mike Sheard - 406-444-6189  
Martin Jacobson - 406-444-6178

July 3, 1996

PSC TO HOLD JULY HEARINGS ON EXPANDING LOCAL CALLING AREAS

The state Public Service Commission will hold hearings for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding US West Communications' proposals for telephone extended area service in the Billings region. Extended area service expands local calling areas so that customers' phone calls within an EAS region will be local, not long-distance. However, local phone rates in an EAS region must increase to recover EAS costs. US West has proposed three rate alternatives under which EAS, if approved by the PSC, could be provided in the Billings region. The Billings region would include Billings, Bridger, Columbus, Fromberg, Hardin, Joliet, Laurel, Park City and Red Lodge. (Editor: The attached chart details the 3 rate alternatives.)

The hearings will be held at the following times and locations:  
Columbus - Tuesday, July 16, 1 p.m., in the courthouse meeting room, Stillwater County Courthouse.

Billings - Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m., in the Lewis Room of the Student Union Building, MSU-Billings.

Hardin - Wednesday, July 17, 1 p.m., in the board room (#301) of the Big Horn County Courthouse.

Laurel - Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m., at the Laurel Rod & Gun Club, Riverside Park.

Red Lodge - Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m., at the Senior Citizens Center, 207 S. Villard.

Bridger - Friday, July 19, 11 a.m., at the Bridger Public Library, 119 W. Broadway.

###