

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

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For more information, contact:
Bob Rowe - 444-6167
Dave Burchett - 444-6184

PSC TO DECIDE ON TEMPORARY MOUNTAIN WATER RATE HIKE

The Public Service Commission will decide Monday, August 5, whether to grant a temporary 7.7-percent rate increase to Mountain Water Co. for its Missoula customers while the company's general rate case is pending.

In its general rate case filed in April, Mountain Water requested a total rate hike of about 15 percent to raise an additional \$1,174,624 in annual revenue. The filing included a request for the temporary rate hike that, if approved, will increase the company's annual revenues by \$575,413.

If the temporary rate hike is approved, residential customers will pay an average of \$25 more for water each year and commercial customers will pay about \$33 more a year. Rates will not change for public and private fire protection customers.

According to the company's filing, more than half the additional revenue requested is needed to recover its investment in a computer-based telemetry system that the company claims will enable it to respond to changing conditions and customer demand automatically and will monitor and report equipment failure 24 hours a day.

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