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For more information, contact:

Kate Whitney - 406-444-3056

MARCH 1 IS LAST DAY TO SWITCH
TO LOWER-COST PHONE SERVICE FREE OF CHARGE

March 1 is the last day customers of US West Communications can switch at no charge to a lower-cost telephone service option called measured service that could save them money on their monthly phone bills.

The period of free switching to measured service was ordered by the PSC when it approved, on a vote of 4-1, eight expanded local calling regions for US West customers last year. In order to pay the cost of the expanded calling areas, customers in those regions pay \$2.55 more per month for local phone service. However, customers who subscribe to either of the two measured service options do not pay the extra \$2.55 per month and can reduce their monthly phone bills.

Under the basic measured service option, a residential customer's monthly local service rate is \$8.90, plus one cent per minute for outgoing local calls within the EAS region. A customer who makes less than 2-1/2 hours of outgoing local calls each month will save money with this option over flat-rate service with unlimited calling.

The other measured-service option provides residential customers with a three-hour block of local calling usage each month for the monthly rate of \$10.40. Outgoing local calls above the three-hour block are billed at one cent per minute. A customer who makes up to 14 hours of outgoing local calls per month will save money with this option.

By comparison, the monthly charge for flat-rate residential service in most Montana communities served by US West is \$17.15. This is still the best choice for customers whose outgoing local calls exceed 14 hours per month. But many customers would save money on their monthly US West bills compared to their current bills by switching to one of the measured-service options.

Customers who want to try out measured service may switch to either of the measured-service options at no charge until March 1 and may switch back to regular flat-rate service at no charge until September 1998. After March 1, the cost to switch to measured service is \$7.50.

Customers should call US West at 1-800-244-1111 to make the switch or to get more information.

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