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US WEST SEEKS PSC APPROVAL OF SALE
OF 10 RURAL MONTANA EXCHANGES
TO CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

US West Communications has asked the Montana Public Service Commission to approve the sale of ten of its Montana exchanges to Citizens Communications.

Exchanges included in the proposed sale are Colstrip, Conrad, Cooke City, Cut Bank, East Glacier, Fairview, Forsyth, Shelby, St. Mary and West Glacier. There are a total of 12,000 Montana access lines involved in the sale.

If PSC approves the sale, Citizens will continue all customer services and obligations currently provided by US West, including 911 service. Rates would not change for at least six months after closing of the sale.

Citizens is a subsidiary of the Delaware-based Citizens Utilities Co., and currently provides local phone service in Libby, Troy and Eureka.

In its filing related to the sale, US West proposed that any gain realized from the sale be allocated entirely to the company's shareholders.

Persons wishing to actively participate in the proceeding must file a petition to intervene (plus 10 copies) with the PSC no later than February 29. The PSC's address is PO Box 202601, Helena MT 59620-2601.

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