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### PSC CANCELS NEXT WEEK'S HEARING ON MPC GAS CASE

Due to the likelihood of a settlement being reached among the parties, the Public Service Commission has canceled next week's hearing on Montana Power Company's request to increase natural gas charges in order to boost its annual revenue by 14 percent. The hearing had been scheduled to begin Monday.

The PSC will instead hear a preliminary presentation on the possible settlement by MPC on Tuesday, February 29, at 9 a.m. in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue, in Helena. The PSC and parties to the case will also discuss procedural issues that will arise if a settlement among some or all of the parties is reached.

Parties actively participating in the case are MPC, the Montana Consumer Counsel, the Missoula-based District XI Human Resource Council, the state Department of Health & Human Services, Commercial Energy of Montana, a coalition of large customers, and Great Falls-based gas company Energy West.

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