

June 8, 2000

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MONTANA PSC CO-HOSTS FEDERAL-STATE CONFERENCE  
ON ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

The deployment of advanced telecommunications services in Montana will be the focus of panel discussions hosted by the Montana Public Service Commission beginning at 1 p.m. on June 21 at Culbertson Hall on the campus of Montana State University-Bozeman. Interested persons may also participate at one of the following four interactive videoconference sites that will broadcast the event:

- Glasgow, at the Nemont Telephone Cooperative office;
- Billings, at MSU-Billings;
- Pablo, at Salish-Kootenai Tribal College; and
- Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the Little America Hotel.

In addition to the interactive videoconference, the conference will be web-streamed at [www.montanavision.net/video/fcc.ram](http://www.montanavision.net/video/fcc.ram).

Representatives of state government, small rural telephone companies, and Montana communities will address the efforts and challenges of advanced services deployment during the panel discussions. An open forum to hear public comments will follow.

The public is invited to attend the event, which is being held in conjunction with the Mountain West region field hearing of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services scheduled for June 23 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The federal-state joint conference was established by the FCC at the suggestion of Montana PSC Commissioner Bob Rowe as part of that agency's efforts to ensure that advanced telecommunications services are deployed as rapidly as possible to all Americans. It consists of the five FCC commissioners and five state public service commissioners from around the country. Rowe is a non-voting member of the joint conference.

The purpose of the events in Montana and Wyoming is to assist the joint conference in gathering information about deployment of broadband technology in this region. The speakers will share practical information on what works, what does not work, and what policy makers should do to help bring broadband services to all citizens.

"It is very important to Montana's citizens and economy that advanced services such as high-speed Internet access and other broadband technologies be available throughout the state," according to PSC chairman Dave Fisher. "The Bozeman forum will give interested Montanans the opportunity to learn about these advanced services and to provide their comments on the subject."

The Wyoming field hearing will be co-hosted by the Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota public service commissions. Montana PSC member Rowe will be co-chair of the hearing, along with FCC Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Wyoming PSC member Steve Furtney.

Registration packets that include complete program details and a conference agenda that includes both the Montana and Wyoming events are available from the Montana PSC by calling 406-444-6199. Registration is free. Persons wanting to participate may also register over the Internet at the Wyoming PSC's web site at [psc.state.wy.us/](http://psc.state.wy.us/).

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