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### PSC HEARING ON MPC GAS & ELECTRIC RATE CASE BEGINS JANUARY 30

Montana Power Company's combined request for a 21-percent rate increase for electric delivery service and a 14-percent rate increase for natural gas delivery and storage will be the subject of a state Public Service Commission hearing that will begin Tuesday, January 30.

The hearing will start at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the PSC, 1701 Prospect Ave., in Helena, and is scheduled through Friday, February 2.

MPC is seeking PSC approval of a \$38.5 million increase in annual revenues for electric transmission and distribution and a \$12 million annual revenue increase on the gas side. In its rate application filed last August, MPC said higher costs and the need to maintain the financial stability of the energy delivery systems prompted the filing.

The PSC approved interim MPC gas and electric delivery rate increases last November pending final resolution of the case. MPC was granted an interim \$14.5 million increase in annual electric revenues and an interim \$5.27 million increase in annual gas revenues.

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