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PSC TO HOLD HEARING FEBRUARY 15 IN MISSOULA  
ON MOUNTAIN WATER'S RATE INCREASE REQUEST

The Montana Public Service Commission will conduct a hearing Thursday on Mountain Water Company's request for a rate increase for its Missoula customers.

The technical portion of the hearing will begin at 1 p.m. at the Missoula City Council Chambers, 435 Ryman. An evening hearing for the convenience of the general public will begin at 7 p.m. at the same location.

Mountain Water originally sought increases of about 19 percent for most flat-rate and metered customers to result in an increase in annual revenues of \$1.8 million. However, the company and the Montana Consumer Counsel, which represents the interests of residential and small business customers in rate cases, have proposed an agreement for PSC consideration that would settle the issues in the case.

Under the terms of the agreement, Mountain Water would get an increase in annual revenues for its Missoula division of about \$1.3 million. If the agreement is approved by the PSC, it will result in monthly bills for typical residential and commercial customers as follows:

- Metered, 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter with 15 Ccf usage would increase from today's \$28.34 to \$32.08 per month for the typical customer.
- Flat rate residential for a single-family home, excluding fire protection service and flat rate sprinkling, would increase from \$29.18 to \$33.24 per month for the typical customer.

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