



Montana Public Service Commission 1701 Prospect Avenue PO Box 202601 Helena MT 59620-2601
--

March 16, 2001

For more information, contact:  
 Bob Rowe - 406-444-6167  
 Denise Peterson - 406-444-6377

**PSC RESCHEDULES HEARING FOR MARCH 21 IN MISSOULA  
 ON MOUNTAIN WATER'S RATE INCREASE REQUEST**

The Montana Public Service Commission will conduct a hearing in Missoula on Wednesday, March 21, regarding Mountain Water Company's request for a rate increase for its Missoula customers. The hearing was originally scheduled to be held last month but was cancelled due to inclement weather and hazardous road conditions.

The technical portion of the hearing will begin at 3 p.m. in the mayor's conference room, 2nd floor, City Hall, 435 Ryman. An evening hearing for the convenience of the general public will begin at 7 p.m. in the city council chambers on the first floor at City Hall.

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.

###