



Montana Public Service Commission  
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**PSC TO HOLD HEARING DEC. 3 IN HELENA REGARDING  
PROPOSED RULES FOR ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a hearing December 3 in Helena to obtain comments on proposed rules pertaining to the PSC's initial designations and annual certifications of eligible telecommunications carriers in the state. Telephone companies seek PSC designation as eligible telecommunications carriers in order to receive federal universal service funds.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m., in the PSC's Bollinger Room , 1701 Prospect Avenue.

The proposed rules establish minimum standards that must be met by eligible telecommunications carriers in Montana. The rules would apply to both wireline and wireless carriers.

PSC Chairman Bob Rowe said, "The proposed rules are consistent with increasing national concern about growth in the size of the federal universal service fund, and that support be awarded based on real value to customers. The proposed rules are intended to provide both wireline and wireless applicants greater transparency and efficiency in the application process. More fundamentally, all recipients should support a disciplined certification process, because without it the national universal service program itself may be at risk." Rowe emphasized that, "This is a new approach to setting standards for certification, and the Commission is very interested specific comments and proposals."

The proposed rules are posted on the PSC's website at [psc.state.mt.us/eDocs/](http://psc.state.mt.us/eDocs/). Persons wishing to provide written comments must submit them no later than December 3. Written comments may be submitted at the hearing, or mailed to the PSC Legal Division, PO Box 202601, Helena MT 59620-2601, or submitted via the PSC's web-based comment form at [psc.state.mt.us/Consumers/](http://psc.state.mt.us/Consumers/).

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