



Montana Public Service Commission
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**PSC TO HOST A SMART METERING & DEMAND
RESPONSE WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 22**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a day-long smart metering & demand response workshop on February 22, 2006 in Helena.

Smart metering systems give utilities and customers detailed information about how much electricity is being used at important times during the day and throughout the month. This information can be used to set prices that reflect different costs of providing electricity at low use times, like at night, and high use times, like hot summer afternoons. The systems give customers a way to affect their utility bills by shifting usage to times of day that have lower prices or conserving during high price periods. The systems also help utilities study optional programs that would directly control some customers' appliances, like air conditioning systems, in return for a price discount. By controlling a large pool of appliances, utilities might be able to avoid buying some of the most expensive electricity without inconveniencing customers and keep prices lower for all customers.

The workshop will begin at 9 am in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue.

The agenda for this informational workshop will include:

- Overview presentations by:
 - Ken Corum, Northwest Power & Conservation Council: fundamental overview
 - Rich Barnes, KEMA: different types of demand response programs and inter-relationship between smart meters and demand response
 - Mike Weedall, Bonneville Power Administration: differences between energy efficiency and load management; examples of regional demand response programs

- Montana-specific metering and demand response activities presented by:
 - Bill Thomas, NorthWestern Energy
 - Allan Jirges, Montana-Dakota Utilities
 - Doug Hardy, Park Electric Cooperative
 - Roger Adams, Conoco-Phillips

- Available advanced metering and demand response technologies presented by:
 - Emmett Kelly, Itron
 - Dan Austin, Comverge

Persons planning to attend the workshop should call Judy Scheier at the PSC at (406) 444-5772 or email her at juscheier@mt.gov.

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