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**PSC Evaluating MDU's Plan to Secure Electricity;
Public Input Needed at Miles City Meeting**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is reviewing Montana-Dakota Utilities' (MDU's) most recent "electric integrated resource plan" (IRP) on July 31 and encourages the public to comment on this important document. Every two years the company must submit this plan detailing how they anticipate meeting the future electricity needs of its Montana customers, including the use of consumer conservation programs or similar improvements in efficiency. Meeting the consumers' needs in a cost-effective way is a focus of the plan as well, so much so that the IRP is sometimes referred to as "the least cost plan."

Copies are available at libraries throughout the MDU service area and comments from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the IRP will be available at the meeting. Anyone having trouble accessing the document, or would like to see DEQ's comments prior to July 31, should contact the PSC at 406.444.6199.

The meeting begins at 10:00 am at the Miles City Community College; 2712 Dickenson Street, Room 313; Miles City. Commissioners Greg Jergeson and Brad Molnar, whose districts include the MDU service territory, will be in Miles City as will MDU representatives. Meeting participants also have the option of joining the discussion from Helena via video conferencing from the Old Livestock Building; 1310 East Lockey Avenue, Room 105.

MDU provides service to customers in 10 eastern Montana counties: Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, and Wibaux.

Made up of 5 elected commissioners, the PSC works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities while paying reasonable rates. Utilities regulated by the PSC generally include private investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water, and sewer companies. In addition, the PSC regulates certain motor carriers, and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety.

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