



*Montana Public Service Commission*

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## **PSC Seeking Input on Mountain Water Rate Increases**

Mountain Water customers have the opportunity to comment on a plan to make the company's recent rate increases permanent. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is holding a hearing on the topic Tuesday, March 31 beginning at 7:00 pm at the City Council Chambers at 140 West Pine Street, Missoula.

The purpose of the hearing is to gather input on an agreement reached between the Company, the City of Missoula, and the Montana Consumer Counsel earlier this year which will keep recent interim increases in place and generate an additional \$2 million for the company, largely to pay for infrastructure improvements.

Rate increases in the agreement vary based on the kind of service and, for metered customers, on usage. An average metered residential customer now pays \$41.90 a month, and previously paid \$38.80. An average residential flat service rate customer now pays \$45.45 a month, and previously paid \$42 a month.

"We are interested in hearing from Mountain Water customers," said PSC Chair Greg Jergeson. "This is a classic PSC balancing act of making sure the company has enough revenue to continue serving its customers, while also making sure customers pay only just and reasonable rates. We need to hear every viewpoint."

Additional information, including more rate increase details, can be found under docket D2008.9.119 on the PSC website at <http://psc.mt.gov/eDocs>.

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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