



Montana Public Service Commission

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PSC Considering Energy West's Reorganization at April 22 Hearing in Great Falls

Energy West's plan to reorganize into a holding company structure is the topic of an April 22 Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing in Great Falls. Energy West, a publicly traded gas utility and energy supplier, serves about 36,000 customers in four states, including the Great Falls, Cascade, and West Yellowstone areas in Montana. The hearing is taking place at the Civic Center, City Commission Chambers, Room 206; 2 Park Drive South and begins at 8:30 am. A decision, or final order, from the Commission on the reorganization plan is anticipated by the end of June.

Much of the hearing will likely revolve around how, if the reorganization is approved, to best separate and insulate public utility assets from risks associated with non-utility ventures of the newly created parent company. Energy West will outline its view of how to best accomplish this protection, known as "ring-fencing," as will the Montana Consumer Counsel, the other official participant in the hearing. The public will have the opportunity to comment at the hearing as well. In addition, written remarks can be sent to the PSC at P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana 59620-2601 or through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov>.

Additional information about the company's reorganization plans can be found under docket D2008.5.57 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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