

March 5, 2010 – *For Immediate Distribution*

For more information contact:

PSC Chair Greg Jergeson, 406.444.6166

Public Information Specialist Sarah Carlson, 406.444.6171

PSC Promoting “Fix a Leak Week”

More than 1 trillion gallons of water is wasted each year in U.S. homes due to water leaks. Therefore, the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) is joining the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense program, in promoting “Fix a Leak Week,” March 15 through 21, 2010. This annual reminder to Americans to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks is particularly relevant for Montanans this year due to the current low snowpack in most areas of the state.

“Fixing water leaks now will result in less water use, easing water availability problems later,” noted PSC Chair Greg Jergeson. “Leaks can add up to more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted at home every year—that’s enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. I urge people to take a look right now at their water systems, no matter how big or small, to determine what they can do to fix leaks. In many cases, household fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and will pay for themselves in a short amount of time.”

Here are a few specific water-saving tips Montanans may want to consider.

- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if necessary, replace the faucet with a newer water-saving model.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they are not damaged by frost or freezing.

For anyone needing to replace a plumbing fixture, the PSC reminds them to look for the WaterSense label. WaterSense labeled fixtures have been independently tested and certified to save water and perform as well as or better than standard models. Visit www.epa.gov/watersense to find examples of WaterSense labeled products. Additional water saving tips and leak repair information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fixaleak>.