

July 22, 2010

***For more information contact:***

PSC Vice Chair: 406.444.6169.

PSC Public Information Specialist Sarah Carlson: 406.444.6171

**Public Service Commission Honors Greg Jergeson by Naming Internship Program after Him**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) honored its retiring Chairman, Greg Jergeson of Chinook, today by naming the Department's new internship program after him.

"Greg is a strong advocate for education, and has been for decades. He has been pushing for an internship program here at the PSC since he was elected in 2002," observed PSC Vice Chair Ken Toole. "Now that we have a quality program up and running, naming it after Jergeson is a perfect way to officially recognize his tremendous leadership and public service."

Jennifer Hill-Hart is the first Jergeson Intern. The 3rd year University of Montana Law School student is researching how other states deal with many of the complicated, and often controversial, issues related to renewable energy. Hill-Hart will summarize her findings in a memo to the Commission, including recommended actions based on lessons learned in other states.

The next Jergeson Intern will likely begin after January 1, 2011; and there is still time to apply. A generous stipend--based on experience--is available and the work dates are flexible. The work will be very challenging, including research on one or more of the following: energy efficiency, electricity-based renewable energy, energy storage, smart grid, electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, demand response equipment, coal with carbon capture and storage, and transmission. The Jergeson Internship Program is currently being funded by a federal grant. Anyone interested in applying for the program should contact the PSC office at 406.444.6171 or [scarlson@mt.gov](mailto:scarlson@mt.gov) for more information.

"Hopefully," Toole concluded, "the Jergeson Interns will be interested in working at the PSC after graduation. Like many workplaces, during the next few years, the PSC is facing a number of retirements of long-time staff. Wouldn't be great if some of the anticipated vacancies resulting from the retirements were filled with former interns?"

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.

--###--