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For more information contact:

PSC Chairman Bill Gallagher: 406.444.6166

PSC Public Information Specialist Sarah Carlson: 406.444.6171

Public Service Commission Considers Reexamination of NWE Rate Decisions

The Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) is discussing the possibility of reexamining rates that the former Commission ordered NorthWestern Energy (NWE) to implement in December, 2010. Much of the PSC's discussion today centered on court proceedings and different request options available to the PSC now that numerous parties have requested that Judge Jim Reynolds void the new rate structure. The parties making the request include NWE, the Montana Consumer Counsel, National Resources Defense Council, and the Human Resources Council in Missoula.

"We will have another look under the hood on this decision," said PSC Chairman Bill Gallagher, "Determining the best and most effective way to accomplish that, is what we are wrestling with now."

Detailed information regarding the NWE rate case can be found at the PSC website at <http://psc.mt.gov/eDocs/eDocuments/>, under PSC Order 7046h in DocketD2009.9.129.

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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