

NEWS RELEASE  
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PSC warns of national scam targeting utility customers

HELENA - The Montana Public Service Commission is warning state residents of a nationwide scam that promises assistance with paying utility bills.

The scam claims President Barack Obama has authorized credits or payments to utility bills. The program does not exist, however.

The con artists are posing as utility representatives to make their pitch, which comes with a request for personal information such as Social Security, credit card and bank account numbers, putting customers at risk for identity theft.

In other instances, victims were given a fraudulent bank account number and asked to use the account when paying residential utility bills.

Victims in other states were contacted by phone, text message, through social media or in person.

The scam has not yet reached the Treasure State, but the PSC reminds Montanans to be cautious if contacted about utility payments.