

NEWS RELEASE
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hearing on proposed water rate increase begins Wednesday in Missoula

HELENA - A public hearing before the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) on a request to increase rates and charges for water service in Missoula kicks off Wednesday in the Garden City.

The hearing on Mountain Water Company's request begins at 10 a.m. at the DoubleTree, 100 Madison St., in Missoula and is scheduled for two days.

The public may submit oral or written comments at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday. Unless the hearing concludes Wednesday, the Commission is expected to accept additional public comment Thursday. The Montana Consumer Counsel is representing the interests of consumers during the hearing.

Mountain Water on July 30, 2012 filed an application with the Commission requesting a \$919,105 revenue requirement increase. The company, which provides water service in and around Missoula, says it requests the increase to recover operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation and amortization expenses, certain taxes and to earn a return of 9.29 percent on rate base. Mountain Water last filed an application to increase rates in 2010.

Mountain Water is proposing to increase rates as follows:

- * Flat rates, excluding fire protection service and flat-rate sprinkling service, would increase by 5.8 percent, or \$2.93 per month, for a single-family home.
- * Metered rates would increase roughly 5.7 percent, or \$2.61 per month, for a 5/8 by 3/4 inch meter using 15 CCF (1 CCF equals 748 gallons).
- * Private fire protection service rates would increase approximately 5.1 percent, or \$2.50 per month, for a 6-inch sprinkler line.
- * Flat rate sprinkler water service rates would increase approximately 6 percent, which would increase an annual water bill for a 5,000-square-foot yard by \$11.77.
- * Public fire protection service rates would decrease 15.5 percent, or almost 25 cents per month, for a customer with a 5/8 by 3/4 inch meter.

The Commission will review evidence, testimony and exhibits in the case before issuing a final decision in the coming months. Made up of five elected commissioners, the PSC works to ensure that Montanans receive safe and reliable service from regulated public utilities at reasonable rates. The PSC generally regulates private investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water and sewer companies. The PSC regulates certain motor carriers and oversees natural gas pipeline safety and intrastate railroad safety.

For more information, visit psc.mt.gov or contact PSC Communications/Research Director Justin Post at (406) 444-6171. Follow the PSC at [Twitter.com/@MT_PSC](https://twitter.com/MT_PSC) or visit [Facebook.com/MontanaPSC](https://facebook.com/MontanaPSC).