

Service Date: October 2, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Petition of the) REGULATORY DIVISION
Montana Consumer Counsel to Amend)
ARM 38.5.2527 through 38.5.2528) DOCKET NO. N2017.9.76

**NOTICE OF PETITION,
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT AND TO REQUEST A HEARING**

On September 25, 2017, the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) petitioned the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) to initiate a rulemaking proceeding in accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-315 (2015), to amend or repeal Mont. Admin. R. 38.5.2527 through 38.5.2528 (Standard Rate Rules).

The MCC is the agency charged with representing consumer interests before the Commission and may institute appropriate proceedings on behalf of Montana's consuming public or substantial elements thereof, including proceedings to review Commission decisions or failures to act by the Commission. Mont. Code Ann. § 69-2-202(2) (2015); Mont. Const. art. XIII §2; *see also* Mont. Code Ann. § 69-2-201. The MCC argues that the Standard Rate Rules do not necessarily serve their stated purpose, cause perverse incentives for utilities, and conflict with substantive and procedural statutes. Therefore, the MCC proposes to replace the standard rates with a simplified process based on minimum filing requirements which will achieve the goal of the lowest reasonable rates for ratepayers.

The Commission hereby affords **interested persons** an opportunity to submit comments related to the Petition and the opportunity to request a hearing **no later than October 23, 2017**. If interested persons or the MCC request a hearing, or the Commission determines a hearing is necessary, the Commission will hold a hearing on **November 7, 2017**, at 1:30 p.m., at the Commission's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620. Comments must be submitted by the October 23, 2017 deadline in order to be discussed at the potential hearing.

In order to submit comments: (1) Submit the comments electronically (e-file) on the Commission's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> (go to "Comment on Proceedings"); and (2) physically deliver or mail the original comments to the Commission at 1701 Prospect Avenue, P. O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana 59620-2601. The Commission will not post e-filed comments to its website until it receives the original.

A copy of the Petition is available for inspection at the Commission's business offices and may also be viewed on its website at <http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket N2017.9.76.

The PSC has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3 of the Montana Code Annotated, and will treat this matter in accordance with Mont. Admin. R. 1.3.308, Mont. Code Ann. § 2-4-315, and Mont. Code Ann. §§ 2-4-302 to 2-4-305.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner
BOB LAKE, Commissioner
TONY O'DONNELL, Commissioner