

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

IN THE MATTER OF the Joint Application) REGULATORY DIVISION
for Approval to Change and Establish Natural)
Gas Delivery Service Rates for Energy West) DOCKET NO. D2017.9.80
Montana, Inc. and Cut Bank Gas Company)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE

On September 29, 2017, Energy West Montana, Inc. (EWM) and Cut Bank Gas Company (CBGC) submitted their Joint Application to the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) for authority to increase and establish natural gas delivery service rates for each utility’s service territory (Joint Application). In Docket D2016.2.17, EWM agreed to file a rate case for EWM and CBGC by September 30, 2017, and this agreement was reflected in Final Order 7478a of that docket. *See* Order 7478a ¶¶ 30, 39. EWM asserts it has a revenue deficiency of \$1,526,960 and CBGC has a revenue deficiency of \$183,284. As a result, EWM and CBGC are asking the Commission to approve increased rates to recover their revenue deficiencies, using their proposed rate mechanism to allow them to accelerate the replacement of higher risk infrastructure and recover their actual capital investment without requiring more frequent case proceedings. The requested revenue requirement for EWM would result in a \$4.10 increase or 7.03% in the typical residential monthly bill in the Great Falls area, and \$3.89 or 2.29% in West Yellowstone (both based on 100 therms). The requested revenue requirement for CBGC would result in a \$4.00 increase or 5.42% in the typical residential monthly bill in Cut Bank (based on 100 therms).

EWM and CBGC request that the Commission: authorize EWM and CBGC to change their existing rates and establish new rates as set forth in their Joint Application and supporting testimony; authorize EWM and CBGC to establish the rate design described in the direct testimony filed in support of their Joint Application; and provide such other processes and relief as the Commission deems necessary for final resolution of the issues raised in their Joint Application and supporting testimony.

A copy of the filing is available for inspection at EWM and CBGC's office in Great Falls, #1 First Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59403; in Cut Bank, 403 East Main, Cut Bank, MT 59427; in West Yellowstone, 145 Geysers Street, West Yellowstone, MT 59758; the PSC's business offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, MT 59620-2601; and the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC), 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, MT 59620-1703, telephone (406) 444-2771. The MCC is available to represent the interests of the consuming public in this matter.

Any interested person who is directly affected by EWM and CBGC's filing before the PSC and who wants to be a party to the docket must file a petition to intervene with the PSC **no later than October 20, 2017**. By the intervention deadline, a person petitioning for intervention must: (1) submit the petition electronically (e-file) on the PSC's website at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Account Login/Registration" under "Electronic Documents" tab); and (2) physically deliver or mail the original petition to the PSC at the address above. The PSC will not post an e-filed document to its website until it receives the original from the petitioner. A person petitioning for intervention in this Docket must also serve a hard copy of the petition on the MCC, and EWM and CBGC's counsel, Nik S. Stoffel and Thorvald A. Nelson, Holland & Hart LLP, 6380 S. Fiddlers Green Circle, Suite 500, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

The PSC and any party may submit preliminary data requests to EWM and CBGC. EWM and CBGC must respond to preliminary data requests within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of the data requests unless otherwise agreed upon by the requesting entity. If an initial data request is objectionable or seeks confidential information, EWM and CBGC must respond accordingly and proceed to object or file a motion for protective order no later than the deadline to respond; if necessary, EWM and CBGC must file an updated response within twenty-one (21) days of the PSC ruling on the objection or motion for protective order.

An interested person that does not wish to formally intervene in this Docket may submit written public comments on the matter to the Commission at the above address, or through its web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov> ("Comment on Proceedings"). The PSC has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 69 of the Montana Code Annotated.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BRAD JOHNSON, Chairman

TRAVIS KAVULLA, Vice Chairman

KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner

ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner

BOB LAKE, Commissioner