



Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
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Helena MT 59620-2601

February 4, 2004

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**PSC INVITES COMMENTS & SCHEDULES MEETING
REGARDING RULES FOR PROTECTING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

The state Public Service Commission invites interested persons, including representatives of the various media in Montana, to submit written comments regarding the procedural and rule changes the PSC should make to its protective order process as a result of a recent decision of the Montana Supreme Court. Comments are due February 20 and should be addressed to Steve Vick, PSC, PO Box 202601, Helena MT 59620-2601, or emailed to svick@state.mt.us.

In its December 2003 decision in *Great Falls Tribune et al. v. The Montana Public Service Commission and the Montana Power Company (NorthWestern Energy)*, the court made important findings about the PSC's rules and processes for protecting information submitted by parties in PSC proceedings that the parties deem to be confidential and not subject to public disclosure. Those findings require the PSC to review its protective order process and rules and make changes to comply with the court's decision.

In addition to receiving written comments, the PSC will hold a roundtable discussion on its protective order processes on Thursday, February 26, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena. Any interested person, whether or not he or she submitted written comments, is welcome to participate in the discussion.

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