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**PSC TO HOLD HEARING ON ENERGY WEST'S PROPOSED RATE CHANGES
DUE TO ANNUAL GAS COST TRACKER TRUE-UP**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing in Great Falls on Wednesday, August 25, concerning Energy West's request for approval of rates for Great Falls and West Yellowstone customers resulting from the annual true-up of the company's natural gas cost tracking procedure and final approval of the rates that were approved by the PSC on an interim basis in 2002.

The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. in the County Courthouse Annex, Conference Room, 325 2nd Avenue N.

Under the gas cost tracking procedure, Energy West submits rate changes monthly to the PSC to reflect its gas costs, but the monthly rate changes are subject to an annual "true-up" to reconcile the company's monthly estimates of gas costs with what the actual costs proved to be.

In this proceeding, Energy West seeks a 2.5-percent rate increase for Great Falls residential customers and a 4.4-percent rate decrease for West Yellowstone residential customers. Rate changes for other customer classes vary. Energy West also proposes to separate its Great Falls and West Yellowstone operations for gas tracker purposes and to remove limitations on when customers may choose to move to another gas supplier.

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