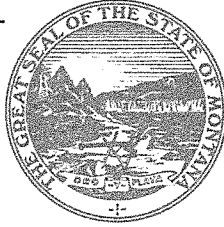


# Montana Public Service Commission



Brad Johnson - Chairman  
Travis Kavulla - Vice Chairman  
Roger Koopman - Commissioner  
Bob Lake - Commissioner  
Tony O'Donnell - Commissioner

April 26, 2018

Jed D. Henthorne  
President and General Manager  
Energy West Montana, Inc.  
PO Box 2229  
Great Falls, MT 59403

RE: Data requests in Docket D2017.12.89

Dear Mr. Henthorne,

Enclosed please find data requests of the Montana Public Service Commission to Energy West Montana, Inc. numbered PSC-027 through PSC-032 in the above referenced Docket. Please begin the response to each new numbered data request on a new page. Please provide responses on or before **May 3, 2018**. If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 444-6182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Arnold", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robin Arnold  
Analyst, Regulatory Division  
Montana Public Service Commission

Encl.

cc: Service List

Service Date: April 26, 2018

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

IN THE MATTER of Energy West Montana, ) REGULATORY DIVISION  
Inc.'s Application for an Order Approving its )  
Reconciliation of the Collections and ) DOCKET NO. D2017.12.89  
Disbursements of West Yellowstone's No Interest )  
Loan Program )

**DATA REQUESTS PSC-027 THROUGH PSC-032 OF  
THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TO ENERGY WEST MONTANA, INC.**

PSC-027

Regarding: LIEAP customers in West Yellowstone  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal p 6

- a. Regarding the West Yellowstone customers signed up for LIEAP assistance that are referred to on p. 6, l. 20-21, please confirm that the customers referred to are current natural gas customers of Energy West.
- b. Please specify the number of customers referred to in (a).

PSC-028

Regarding: Start-up dates for USB programs  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal p. 7

- a. Please submit a schedule for significant planning dates and start-up dates of initial operation for new USB programs—i.e., low-income discount for LIEAP customers, low-income furnace efficiency, low-income weatherization, and low-income bill assistance—in West Yellowstone.
- b. In the schedule requested in (a), please include the anticipated dates on which contracts with third-party providers will become operational.
- c. For the schedule requested in (a), please explain your reasoning for the order in which new USB programs are scheduled to be operational.
- d. For the schedule requested in (a), please explain the time requirements and necessary steps for making each of the new programs operational.

## PSC-029

Regarding: Service provider procedures and agreements  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal pp 6-7

Please describe the process, including timelines, of how Energy West will develop formal agreements with third-party providers of USB program services.

## PSC-030

Regarding: Budgets for USB programs  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal

- a. Please submit estimated budgets for each of the new USB programs identified or contemplated in your testimony.
- b. If program-specific budgets are not yet available, please describe your plans for developing the budgets, including the dates they will be finalized.

## PSC-031

Regarding: West Yellowstone USB rate establishment  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal

On p. 4, EWM agrees with MCC that the Commission should waive the 1.12% requirement in ARM 38.5.7020(2) and establish USB funding levels for West Yellowstone at the statutory minimum of 0.42% of annual revenues. EWM's USB rate in its other territories is higher than .42%, with the highest USB rate in Great Falls and Cascade.

- a. In response to MCC-003, you indicate that low income eligible households are approximately 17.2% of total EWM West Yellowstone customers. What percentage of customers in EWM's Great Falls territory are low income eligible households?
- b. If EWM's USB programs in Great Falls serve a similar percentage of eligible low income customers as EWM's proposed West Yellowstone USB programs, please explain why the USB rate is proposed to generate .42% of retail sales in West Yellowstone, while Great Falls has a rate approved to generate 1.25% (with actual collections in the years 2007-2017 averaging 1.73%)?

## PSC-032

Regarding: Current and future USB rates  
Witness: Henthorne, Rebuttal

- a. What would the USB charge be for West Yellowstone if the Commission accepts EWM's and MCC's proposed rate of .42% of retail sales? Please show your calculations.

- b. On p. 4-5 of your testimony, you state that EWM does not intend .42% of retail sales to be the permanent funding level for West Yellowstone's USB programs. How does EWM expect the rate to be changed to once the West Yellowstone USB programs are established, and when does EWM predict that a rate change might be necessary?



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