

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND
THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION, PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**

- I. **Purpose:** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the responsibilities and procedures under which Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Montana Department of Public Service Regulation, Public Service Commission (PSC) will interact to protect and enhance public health and consumer safety for the benefit of all Montana citizens. DEQ and PSC recognize the importance of establishing and maintaining effective services to citizens of the State of Montana. This MOU, therefore, is established with the intent to promote the cooperation, coordination, and performance of the functions of these two administrative agencies.
- II. **Authority:** This MOU is established by mutual agreement of DEQ and PSC.
- III. **Scope:** This MOU initiates and defines the procedures DEQ and PSC will follow in:
- A. Sharing available information concerning public water and public wastewater systems operating under state jurisdiction;
 - B. Informing public water and public wastewater facilities of the facilities' responsibilities under the laws and administrative rules implemented by each agency;
 - C. Conducting interagency meetings to discuss informational needs.
- IV. **Responsibilities:**
- A. **Information exchange:**
 - 1. Upon request of PSC, DEQ will provide available information on public water and wastewater systems including ownership, contact information, system type, approximate population served, number of service connections, and other information if available to implement the respective agency's duties.
 - 2. Upon request of DEQ, PSC will provide updates on the status of PSC's interactions with public water and wastewater systems including regulatory determinations, communication summaries, regulatory status of systems under review, and other information if available and useful.
 - B. **Information distribution:**
 - 1. Each agency will promptly answer a request for information or clarification from the other agency. The agencies agree that prompt transfer of such information is necessary to assist the agencies in making a timely decision under their respective statutory and regulatory authorities.
 - 2. DEQ and PSC will confer to identify opportunities for the agencies to jointly distribute information with regulated entities through established communication pathways, including but not limited to mass mailings and targeted mailings to specific types of public water or public wastewater owners if appropriate and reasonable.

C. Interagency meetings:

1. When needed for information exchange and coordination purposes, DEQ and PSC agree to meet at a location and time convenient to both agencies to develop a mutual understanding of the information needed or information provided.
2. For the purposes of coordination and interaction, DEQ and PSC agree to provide the appropriate staff to discuss any matters needing agreement for the purposes of implementing this MOU.

D. Liaisons

DEQ designates Jon Dilliard, jdilliard@mt.gov, Public Water Supply Bureau Chief, and PSC designates Justin Kraske, jkraske@mt.gov, Chief Legal Counsel, to act as liaisons between DEQ and PSC for implementation of this MOU.

E. Effect, Termination, and Modification

This MOU shall take effect on the date it is signed by both agencies and shall remain in effect until terminated by mutual agreement of the agencies. This MOU may be modified in writing whenever the agencies agree that modification is necessary to simplify or modify the procedures described herein.

By:

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Tom Livers
Director

Date

Department of Environmental Quality

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC REGULATION

Justin Kraske
Chief Legal Counsel
Public Service Commission

Date

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