

WORKING DRAFT
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 wastewater in operation and under state jurisdiction;
 - B. Providing information to public water and wastewater facilities on their responsibilities under the laws and rules implemented by each agency;
 - C. Conducting interagency meetings to discuss the 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 and useful.
 - 2. On a periodic basis (to be determined) PSC will supply DEQ with updates on the status of their interactions with public water and wastewater systems including: regulatory determinations, communication summary, regulatory status of a system 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. When appropriate DEQ and PSC will confer on the distribution of information for each agencies through normal communication pathways established with the regulated

community such as mass mailings, or targeted mailings to specific types of water or wastewater 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 clear 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 on for the purposes of fulfillment of 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 operation 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:

