

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

AMENDED LOCAL RULE ON ELECTRONIC FILINGS

M. R. Civ. P. 5(d)(3) provides:

A court may, by local rule, allow papers to be filed, signed, or verified by electronic means, including facsimile, that are consistent with any technical standards established by the court or local rule. A paper filed by electronic means in compliance with a local rule is a written paper for purposes of these rules.

Electronic filing of documents is convenient for litigants and enables the Water Court to operate more efficiently.

Accordingly, the Water Court amends Local Rule 1 as follows, effective July 27, 2020:

Water Court Local Rules

1.) Electronic Filing, Signing and Verification

The Water Court accepts electronic filing of documents. Documents may only be filed by emailing them to watercourt@mt.gov. Documents sent to other email addresses will not be accepted. Electronically filed documents shall include either a handwritten signature or an electronic signature. Electronic signatures shall be in the following form: “/s/ John Doe” or any other form of electronic signature authorized by law.

Emailed documents must be in PDF format. Proposed orders must be in Microsoft Word format. Electronic filings will not be accepted for emails over 15 MB in size. Emails exceeding the 15 MB limit may be filed by breaking them into multiple filings less than 15 MB in size provided a cover email is submitted to explain that the document

is being filed in separate pieces. When a document is filed electronically, a duplicate paper document should not be filed. Documents may not be filed by facsimile.

Parties who submit documents via email shall place a request for delivery receipt on the e-mail.

The Court will continue to accept filing of paper documents until further notice.

IT IS ORDERED that the Water Court adopts local rule 1 as amended above.

Russ McElyea
Chief Water Judge