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## Montana Department of Transportation

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Michael T. Tooley, Director

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March 18, 2016

Western Regional Permit Users

Subject: Western Regional Permits Issued from Montana

The Motor Carrier Services Division is in the process of implementing new electronic Permitting, Auditing, Registration and Tax system (ePART). Our customers can expect a user friendly system with expansive online access to generate various types of permits, IRP Transactions, IFTA renewals, reporting and the ability for secure payment processing (fees may vary). Along with the new system, carriers can expect the same high quality of services from the Motor Carrier Services and Administration Divisions.

You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that you had ordered a Western Regional permit since January 1, 2015.

In a recent WASHTO meeting, Western Regional permits were an agenda item. This discussion included both participating states and the motor carrier industry. This discussion identified a number of changes/issues that have evolved since this permit was created back in the 1990's. With more states updating their permitting systems (which Montana has been in the process of doing, see below) permit issuance has become much easier and efficient for both Motor Carriers and Service Providers to go on line and issue permits. Some of the other challenges discussed and identified included:

- Payments between states
  - Restriction updates
  - System updates
  - Staffing issues & training
  - Off-route approvals
  - Enforcement confusion, unlike any permit they have seen
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- Permit design is not uniform between states
    - Dependent upon individual state permit system/program
  - Industry input
    - Too restrictive – increase gross weight and axle weights – envelope vehicle limits
    - Permits take more time to get since they are not auto-routed.
    - Is it worth the states too issue?
      - How much time does it take from the issuing state? Is it a Resource Drain?

As a result of these items, Montana will be discontinuing the issuance of the Western Regional Permit effective April 1st, 2016.