



**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES & CONSERVATION
FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE**

TO: DNRC New and Re-Hires
FROM: Financial Services Office-Payroll
DATE: February 25, 2016
**SUBJECT: PERS OPTIONAL MEMBERSHIP ELECTION (Form 1016) INFORMATION
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

When completing the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) Optional Membership Election form 1016, please note the following important facts:

- You are **required** to select "I elect PERS membership" if you are currently a member of PERS. Your membership can be either **ACTIVE** or **INACTIVE**. Your membership may be from another government entity (i.e. county employment).
- If you select "I decline PERS" and DNRC Payroll staff determines that you are a member of PERS, DNRC is required to re-enroll you as a PERS member.
- Even if you are not a member of PERS and you select "I decline PERS membership", you will automatically become a member of PERS when you post more than 960 hours on your timesheet.
- You are required to pay the Employee portion of PERS as soon as you cross the 960 hours. DNRC encourages employees to track their own hours and to monitor their payroll information to assure that the employee portion of the PERS contribution is being deducted from their earnings.
- PERS calculates the 960 hours on a state fiscal year basis using the date paid. For example, the first pay date in FY15 was July 9, 2014 (Pay Period Ended June 27, 2014). Therefore, the start date for hours counted toward 960 in FY15 is June 14, 2014. The end date for FY15 is June 12, 2015. Once you cross the 960 hours between those dates, DNRC Payroll will enroll you as a PERS member. (The 960 hours are not only those hours worked for DNRC but any hours worked in a PERS covered position.)
- The following hours are included in the 960 calculation:
 - Regular Time
 - Over-Time
 - Holiday
 - Vacation
 - Sick Leave
 - Exempt Comp Time Taken
 - Non-Exempt Comp Time Taken
 - Payouts of Leave Balances
- The following hours are not included in the 960 calculation:
 - Exempt Comp Earned
 - Non-Exempt Comp Earned
 - Leave without Pay

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact DNRC Payroll in Helena at (406) 444-5735.

Your signature below is your acknowledgment that you have read and understand the above information:

Employee's Signature

Print Employee's Name

Date