

Service Date June 24, 1975

BEFORE THE UTILITY DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re CITY of HARDIN.)
City Water Department)

ORDER NO. 4192
DOCKET NO. 6282

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, EVIDENTIARY RULINGS
ORDER and NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

This application was properly noticed in the Billings Gazette on April 3, 1975. and the Hardin Tribune on March 27, 1975. The hearing was held on April 17, 1975, with the five (5) Commissioners and the Consumer Counsel present. The proposed increase of water rates in the City of Hardin Water Department (Applicant) the Montana Public Service Commission considered the evidence and exhibits and makes the following disposition on this contested case:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Mueller Engineering, Inc., engineering consultants to the IS City of Hardin, recommended that Hardin construct additional storage facilities and connecting water mains for the City water system.
2. The capacity of the existing storage tank is 500,000 gallons and is in good enough condition to render service, but needs regular maintenance.
3. There is a desperate need for back-up reserve storage so that the present storage facilities can be taken out of service for operational maintenance on a routine schedule.

4. Hardin does not have sufficient pump and storage facilities, during peak usage to meet reserve requirements to maintain pressure at hydrants. At peak-use periods, the tank would ho empty in 17 minutes if there was a fire in town.

5. Hardin's storage, supply and distribution mains must be installed at the same time.

6. The improvements sought will be financed by the issuance of Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$300,000, payable over a period of fifteen years.

7. That the Revenue Bonds were approved by a vote of 597 to 244 at a special election held for Hardin voters on June 4, 1974.

8. The increased rates are needed to generate the necessary revenue to repay the bonds.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The additional storage facility, supply and distribution mains is and high performance pump are needed.

2. Applicant could not meet the bond payments without obtaining a rate increase to generate additional revenue.

EVIDENTIARY RULINGS

1. Any motion that has not previously been acted upon is denial!

2. Petition against a twenty percent (20%) increase in 5,000-10,000 gallon category were received into evidence without objection.

ORDER

Applicant is authorized to increase its water rates by instituting the following rate schedule:

"PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MONTANA

City of Hardin, Montana

Schedule Water Service

Available for:

Rate:	Class A. Rate	
First 3,000 gallons, or any part thereof, per month		\$ 4.00
Next 2,000 gallons per thousand per month		1.20
Next 5,000 gallons per thousand per month		.75
All in excess of 10,000 gallons, per thousand per month		.50
Minimum rate by meter per month:		

5/8" or 3/4" meter per month 4.00
 1" meter per month 5.00
 1 1/2" meter per month 8.00
 2" meter per month 15.00

For each separate house on metered service an additional minimum of three dollars (\$3.00) shall be charged.

Where one service supplies a building, but separate meters are placed to measure water to the different consumers, a three dollar (\$3.00) minimum shall be charged for each meter.

Class B. Rate
 Private Fire Service:

Per 2" hose connections 25.00
 Per 3" service pipe and hose connection 20.00
 Per 4" service pipe and hose connection 35.00

Tank Rate.

Item 56 Tanks, portable, each time filled .10
 per
 hundred
 gallons
 Minimum charge, per tank, each time filled .25
 Metered rate to water retailers, per thousand gallons 1.00

Prompt Payment Discount:
 None.

Effective: May 1, 1975."

ORDERED in OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana, on April 21, 1975,
 by 4-1 vote of the Montana Public Service Commission.

 GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

 P.J. GILFEATHER, Commissioner

 THOMAS G. MONAHAN, Commissioner

 GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:
 GAIL E. BEHAN
 Secretary
 (SEAL)

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this Order. Judicial review is pursuant to the provisions of Section 82-4216, R.C.M. 1947.