

BEFORE THE UTILITY DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the application)	
of BELLE CREEK GAS COOPERATIVE)	DOCKET NO. 6381
ASSOCIATION for an order authori)	
zing the initiation of rates for)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4248
natural gas service.)	

On December 10, 1975, BELLE CREEK GAS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as Applicant, filed with the Montana Public Service Commission its application, pursuant to Section 70-121, RCM 1947, requesting an order authorizing Applicant to initiate charges for its natural gas service.

At a regular open session of the Montana Public Service Commission, held in its office at 1227 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana, on March 24, 1976, there came before the Commission for final action the matters in Docket No. 6381, and the Commission, having fully considered the application and all the data and records pertaining thereto on file with the Commission and being fully advised in the premises, makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACTS

1. Applicant, Belle Creek Gas Cooperative Association, is a cooperative association organized under the laws of Montana and is qualified to transact business in Montana.
2. Applicant is operating as a public utility as defined in Section 70-103, RCM 1947, and as such is engaged in furnishing utility service in Montana.
3. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this application under Sections 70-101, et seq, RCM 1947.

4. Public notice of the filing of application and opportunity for the public hearing was given on February 6, 1976, by mailing a copy of the notice to twenty-three (23) consumers of applicant and the Montana Consumer Counsel. No protests or requests for a formal hearing were received by February 27, 1976.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. This Commission has a duty under the provisions of the Public Service Commission Act, RCM 1947, Section 70-101, et seg, to insure that utilities under its jurisdiction provide reasonably adequate service at just and reasonable rates.

2. The standard “just and reasonable” has been held to be the same as the constitutional standard for public utility rates. F.P.C. v. Natural Gas Pipe Line Co., 315 U.S. 575 (1942).

3. The rate approved herein is a just and reasonable rate to insure continued service to Applicant’s consumers.

4. The rate schedule requested by Applicant should be approved as reflected by the above findings.

ORDER

1. The application of Belle Creek Gas Cooperative Association for authority to initiate charges for natural gas service is approved. Done March 24, 1976, by a 3-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

P.J. GILFEATHER, Commissioner

JAMES R. SHEA, Commissioner

ATTEST:

GAIL E. BEHAN
Secretary

(Seal)

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