

Service Date: September 8, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF the ) UTILITY DIVISION  
Application by MARTIN CITY WATER )  
COMPANY for Authority to ) DOCKET NO. 6530  
Increase Water Rates. ) ORDER NO. 4377  
 ) TEMPORARY ORDER  
 )

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 2, 1977, the Montana Public Service Commission officially accepted the petition of the MARTIN CITY WATER COMPANY (Applicant) under 82-4209, R. C. M. 1947, pursuant to jurisdiction granted by 70-101, et seq., R. C. M. 1947, and to the requirements of Article II, Sections 8 and 9 of the Montana Constitution for an order authorizing Applicant a water rate increase to provide revenues for the repair and improvement of the facility and to defray costs of operation.

2. A public hearing on this matter was held in the Town Hall at Hungry Horse, Montana 59919, at 10:00 AM (MDT) on Wednesday, August 31, 1977, with Commissioner George Turman acting as Hearing Examiner.

3. Wes Johnson, owner/operator of the Martin City Water Company, presented the evidence for the Applicant. Mr. Johnson testified that the Company's present rates had been in effect since 1947.

4. Mr. Johnson testified that the system is so far deteriorated that almost total replacement is required. Mr. Johnson's testimony was supported in this respect by the

public witnesses.

5. Mr. Johnson also testified regarding the extensive and unsuccessful efforts of himself and other Martin City citizens to set up some type of public water system following the announcement by Russell Baeth, the former owner, that he intended to cease operations.

6. The Commission had the benefit of extensive testimony from the citizens of Martin City, all of whom supported Mr. Johnson's general program of improvements.

7. Reservations were expressed concerning service to particular customers, service classification of certain accounts, deposits, and hook up fees. Mr. Johnson's testimony resolved these questions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant, MARTIN CITY WATER COMPANY, is a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

2. The Commission has authority, pursuant to Section 70-113, R. C. M. 1947, to grant temporary rate increases.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, at a session of the Public Service Commission, held in its offices at 1227 Eleventh Avenue, Helena, Montana, on the first day of September, 1977, there being present

Commissioners Gordon Bollinger, Patrick J. Gilfeather and Thomas J. Schneider, there came before the Commission Docket No. 6530, and the Commission being fully advised in the premises;

IT IS ORDERED by the Commission that the Martin City Water Company in Docket No. 6530 be granted a temporary increase for the full amount requested for services rendered after September 1, 1977.\*

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Applicant shall supply the Commission with bimonthly reports of its revenues, operating expenses, capital expenditures, and progress in construction.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this temporary order may be altered at any time by the final order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a full, true and correct copy of this temporary order be sent forthwith by certified mail to the Applicant herein, and by first class United States mail to all other appearances herein.

The authorized changes to the old, tariff are as follows:

Residential.....	\$10.00/month
Commercial.....	20.00/month
Summer Sprinkling.....	5.00/month

\*If the final order shall determine that the full amount of this temporary increase is not justified, the excess shall be rebated to the customers of the Martin City Water Company with any remaining funds to escheat to the State of Montana.

Done in Open Session on September 1, 1977, by a vote of 3-0.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

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GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

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P.J. GILFEATHER, Commissioner

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THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

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GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner  
(Voting in abstain)

Gail E. Behan  
Secretary

(SEAL)