

Service Date: September 1, 1978

FINAL ORDER NO. 4416c
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)
of THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY for) DOCKET NO. 6545
Authority to Increase Rates for) ORDER NO. 4416c
Superior Water Service.)

APPEARANCES

For the Applicant:

ROBERT P. GANNON, Attorney at Law, The Montana Power Company,
40 East Broadway, Butte, Montana, on behalf of the Applicant.

For the Protestant:

GEOFFREY L. BRAZIER, Montana Consumer Counsel, 34 West Sixth
Avenue, Helena, Montana.

For the Commission:

JAMES C. PAINE, Staff Counsel

Before:

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner and Hearing Examiner
P. J. GILFEATHER, Commissioner

By application filed November 23, 1977, the Montana Power
Company (M.P.C., or Applicant) sought authority from this
Commission to increase the rates charged customers of its
water utility in Superior, Montana. Applicant proposed rates
that would generate \$37,315 of additional revenue annually if
approved.

Following legal notice, hearings were held in Docket No.
6545 on May 3, 1978 in Superior, Montana. Testimony was heard
and exhibits received into evidence on the need for a
permanent rate increase. Having requested a temporary
increase on March 28, 1978, Applicant renewed its request for
interim relief at the May hearing.

Order No. 4416a, issued June 2, 1978, provided Applicant

interim relief by authorizing M.P.C. to file rate schedules which would yield \$21,865 of additional revenue to the utility.

By Commission Proposed Order No. 4416b, issued July 28, 1978, Applicant was authorized to submit rate schedules designed to produce a revenue increase of \$21,865 (this sum is in lieu of as opposed to in addition to interim relief sums authorized) from its Superior Water customers. In addition, twenty-four months after the issuance of the Final Order in this matter, Applicant is authorized to file new tariff schedules which will increase revenues by \$37,315 over those prior to Order No. 4416a.

The increased revenues authorized in Proposed Order No. 4416b were to be derived from the various tariffed services as follows:

- (a) Applicant's proposed increases for metered customers, unmetered residential-domestic and unmetered-other government were approved in their entirety; DOCKET NO. 6545, ORDER NO. 4416c 3
- (b) The remainder, or \$15,876 additionally authorized revenue increases were to be generated by increasing present rates by a uniform percentage of the proposed revenue increase for each class and rate within each class.

No exceptions to Proposed Order No. 4416b were filed and the Commission adopts the Proposed Order as Final; however, several mathematical and administrative errors in Order No. 4416b must herein be corrected and they are:

1. On page 17, line 8 should be amended to read, "with Findings 60 and 61 below. Following the effective period for the"

2. In Finding of Fact 61, the last line should be corrected to read

$$\text{Uniform \% of proposed: } \frac{\$15,876}{\$31,326} = 50.7$$

3. On page 23, line 10 should read, "tributed among tariffed services as described in Findings of Fact 60"

4. On page 23, line 14 should be corrected to read, "increase revenues by \$37,315 over those prior to Order No. 4416a."

5. The following Finding of Fact should be added to page 23 and numbered 5:

Currently, Montana Power renders a single bill to each customer for the entire sprinkling season. At the hearing in Superior, some members of the public present expressed an interest in paying their sprinkling charges, were they to be increased, over the irrigation season or over the year. In light of the substantial increase herein authorized, the Commission finds merit in the consumers' request for optional payment plans similar to Budget Billing available to gas and electric customers. Montana Power should afford its Superior water users the opportunity to pay their sprinkling charges as a lump sum during the sprinkling season or as additions to their regular monthly bills during the season or during the entire year.

6. Finding of Fact No. 5 in the Proposed Order should be renumbered 6 in the Final Order.

ORDER

THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Proposed Order No. 4416b, Docket No. 6545, issued July 28, 1978 is hereby incorporated by reference into this Final Order in Docket 6545.

2. Proposed Order No. 4416b is hereby adopted as the Final Order in this matter insofar as said order is consistent with the corrections and amendments given above and the Order of this decision, Order No. 4416c.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at a meeting of the Montana Public Service Commission held August 28, 1978, by a 4-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

George Turman, Commissioner

James R. Shea, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(Seal)

NOTE: You are entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion for Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on that motion, or upon the

passage of ten (100 days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 82-4216, R.C.M. 1947; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38-2.2(64)-P2750, ARM.