

Service Date: March 1, 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.)	
for Authority to Establish)	Consolidated DOCKET NO. 6564
Increased Rates for Natural Gas)	ORDER NO. 4405
Service to Industrial Gas Cus-)	
tomers)	

The Commission is in receipt of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., (MDU), applications to recover increased gas costs incurred in the third quarter of 1977 (Docket No. 6556) and in the fourth quarter of 1977 (Docket No. 6563). Both applications request waiver of the Commission's minimum filing standards. Great Western Sugar Co. (GW) has been granted leave to intervene in Docket No. 6556. GW protests the grant of the requested waiver and moves to strike portions of the application on the ground MDU has failed to present sufficient evidence to demonstrate the impact on MDU's allowed rate of return if the application in Docket No. 6556 is granted.

Because of the similar questions of law and fact contained in Docket Nos. 6556 and 6563, the Commission has determined that these Dockets should be consolidated into a single Docket and denominated Docket No. 6564.

The Commission has also determined that good cause exists to support MDU's requested waivers. The costs MDU seeks to recover

are confined to several expense accounts. If MDU can demonstrate that its requested revenue increases will do no more than cover these increases, then there will be no impact on the return allowed in Docket No. 6441.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION on February 27, 1978, by a vote of 5 - 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

P.,J. Gil,eather, Commissioner

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

James R. Shea, Commissioner

George Turman, Commissioner

Madeline L. Cottrill
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.