Service Date: June 27, 1979

READING FILE.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application of the CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Natural Gas Service.	DOCKET NO. 6628 ORDER NO. 4532 INTERIM RATE ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 3, 1978, CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY made application to this Commission for authority to increase rates in order to offset increased gas costs charged by Treasure State Pipe Line Company which resulted from increased gas costs charged by The Montana Power Company under Docket No. 6618.

2. Consumers Gas Company purchases one hundred percent (100%) of its gas from Treasure State Pipe Line Company.

3. On June 25, 1979, this Commission granted Montana Power Company an increase in its natural gas rates. Included in the rate increase Order was authorization to increase charges to Montana Power's small utility customers.

4. This increase will result in a corresponding expense increase to Consumers Gas Company.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing or final action. If the final action is to disapprove the increase the Commission shall order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. 69-3-304, MCA

2. The application of Consumers Gas Company will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Applicant, Consumers Gas Company, is authorized to increase its rates to recover increased gas costs from Treasure State Pipe Line Company as a result of Commission Order No. 4521 and to file tariffs and supporting calculations.

2. The increase granted herein is subject to rebate should the final Order in this Docket determine that a lesser increase than authorized by this Order is required.

3. In the event a rebate is directed by the final Order in this Docket, provision shall be made in that Order to cause all uncollected rebates to be escheated to the State of Montana in the manner provided by law.

4. The increased rates shall be collected upon a constant, uniform cents per Mcf basis.

5. The filed tariffs shall be effective upon Commission approval.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5 - 0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held June 25, 1979.

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

James R. Shea, Commissioner

George Turman, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTICE: 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 for Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38-2.2(64)-P2750, ARM.