

Service Date: February 26, 1980

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application)	
of the CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS,)	DOCKET NO. 6687
Montana for an order authorizing)	
a water rate increase and to imple-)	ORDER NO. 4568a
ment a multiple user charge and a)	
special Extreme Low Temperature)	
Regulation.)	

Pursuant to notice given in the manner prescribed by law, this matter came on regularly to be heard commencing at 10:00 a.m. on the 22nd day of August, 1979, at the City Hall, 430 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, Montana, before Commissioner George Turman, duly appointed Hearing Examiner for the Montana Public Service Commission.

APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPLICANT, CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS:

James A. Cumming, 430 Nucleus Avenue, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

FOR THE INTERVENOR, MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL:

James C. Paine, Montana Consumer Counsel, 34 West Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Eileen E. Shore, Counsel
James P. Dwyer, Rate Analyst

BEFORE:

George Turman, Commissioner

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Order No. 4568 in Docket No. 6687 was issued on October 29, 1979.
2. On December 24, 1979 a consumer of the Columbia Falls Sewer System filed a letter with this Commission complaining of increased sewer rates as a result of the proceedings and order in Docket No. 6687.
3. The Commission's Staff has verified with the City's Legal Counsel that sewer rates were increased as a result of the water rate increase granted by Order 4568.
4. The applicant did not seek nor was it the intention of this Commission to grant a sewer rate increase in Docket No. 6687.
5. The Commission finds that the following adjustment is necessary in the City of Columbia Falls Sewer Rate Schedule:

Total Revenue recognized in Order 4568 was \$87,600. The Revenue shortfall was \$66,201. In order to meet the revenue shortfall of \$66,201 an approximate adjustment of 75% increase was necessary.

The existing sewer rate is 100% of the water rate. In order to maintain sewer revenues at their approved position the percentage must be lowered to 57% of the water rate as the following indicates.

X1= sewer rate adjusted
 X = approved sewer rates
 X also equals approved water rates

1.75X = new water rates

1.75X = 1

$$X1 = \frac{1}{1.75} = .57 = 57\%$$

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The City of Columbia Falls Sewer Department rates are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. The decreased rate approved herein are reasonable and just.

ORDER

1. IT IS ORDERED that the City of Columbia Falls Sewer Department shall file a rate schedule reflecting the new rate in FF4 (above).

2. IT IS ORDERED that the City of Columbia Falls shall rebate to all consumers the overcharge for sewer since the effective date of Order 4568.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the City of Columbia Falls shall inform this Commission of the manner in which these rebates are made.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana on February 13, 1980 by a 4 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

George Turman, Commissioner

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be 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 a ruling on that motion, or upon the passage 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.