

Service Date: November 6, 1979

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

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE AND) DOCKET NO. 6694
TELEGRAPH COMPANY, for approval)
of revised tariffs relative to) ORDER NO. 4573
customer deposits and guarantor)
liability.)

APPEARANCES

APPLICANT:

John F. Sullivan, Esq., 406 Fuller Avenue, Helena, Montana

HEARING EXAMINER:

Eileen E. Shore, Staff Attorney

BEFORE:

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner
JAMES R. SHEA, Commissioner
GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner

On May 19, 1979, Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company (Mountain Bell) requested the Commission's approval of a tariff relating to customer deposits and guarantor liability.

On August 14, 1979, pursuant to legal notice dated July 17, 1979, the Commission conducted a hearing on the matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission has adopted uniform regulations relating to customer deposits and guarantor liability.

2. The Commission's current rules have certain special provisions which address special problems faced by Mountain Bell and other telephone companies in assuring payments through deposits and guarantor arrangements.
3. The Commission's rules were intended to create a uniform system under which deposits and guarantor arrangements could be required by regulated utilities.
4. Absent strong reasons for departing from that uniformity, it is the Commission's policy that its general rules should govern requirements for deposits and guarantor liability.
5. Mountain Bell has failed to demonstrate why the Commission should depart from its policy of uniform rules by approving the tariffs proposed in this docket.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Mountain Bell is a public utility furnishing telecommunications service to consumers in the State of Montana.
2. This Commission has jurisdiction over the rates and the conditions under which utility service is rendered in Montana.

ORDER

The Montana Public Service Commission Orders That:

Mountain Bell's petition in this matter be Denied.

Dated this 5th day of November, 1979.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

JAMES R. SHEA, Commissioner

GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
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 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.