

Service Date: February 5, 1981

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

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of the CITY OF LAUREL to Increase) UTILITY DIVISION
Water Rates.) DOCKET NO. 80.11.108
) INTERIM ORDER NO. 4745

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 10, 1980, the City of Laurel (Applicant) filed an application with this Commission for authority to increase the water rates on a permanent basis by approximately 34% equaling a revenue increase of approximately \$98,650.
2. Concurrent with the filing of the permanent application for increased rates, the City filed an application for an interim increase in rates of approximately 15.1% equaling a revenue increase of approximately \$48,350 or 49% of the proposed permanent increase.
3. The City alleges the proposed interim increase in rates is necessary to offset increased costs of operation.
4. The City's exhibits indicate an interim annual revenue increase of \$48,350 is necessary to offset increased costs of operation.
5. The Commission finds that a uniform percentage increase in rates of 15.1% will generate approximately \$48,350 on an annual basis and that this interim increase is justified.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and the subject matter in this proceeding.
2. 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.
3. The application for a permanent increase will be noticed for a hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Applicant file tariff schedules increasing rates by a uniform percentage of 15.1% to all customer classes.
2. The effective date shall be for water service rendered on and after January 31, 1981.
3. The increase granted herein is subject to rebate should the final order in this docket determine that a lesser amount than authorized by this order is required.
4. 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.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 26th day
of January, 1981, by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, 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. 38.2.4806 ARM.