

80-57

Service Date: December 31, 1980

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

READING FILE.

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of the CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY For)
Authority To Increase Rates and)
Charges For Natural Gas Service.)

UTILITY DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 80.5.28
INTERIM RATE ORDER NO. 4733

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On May 28, 1980, Consumers Gas Company (Applicant) 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. 80.4.2.
2. Consumers Gas Company purchases one hundred percent (100%) of its gas from Treasure State Pipe Line Company.
3. The 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 for purchased gas.

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 retro-active 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. 4714a 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 for services rendered on and after December 19, 1980.

6. Services rendered before December 19, 1980 must be billed at the rate in effect prior to December 19, 1980.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5 - 0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held in Helena, Montana on December 19, 1980.

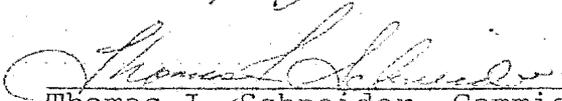
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.



Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman



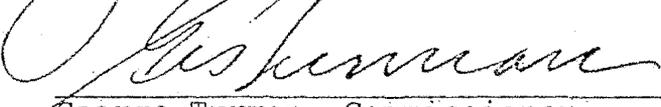
Clyde Jaryis, Commissioner



Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

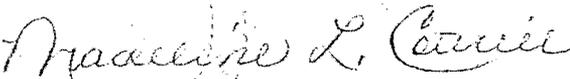


James R. Shea, Commissioner



George Turman, 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.