

Service Date: August 20,1980

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

IN THE MATTER of the Application) UTILITY DIVISION
of the CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS To) DOCKET NO. 80.6.44.
Increase Sewer Rates.) INTERIM ORDER NO. 4675a

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 25, 1980, the CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS (Applicant) filed an application for authority to increase sewer rates, on a permanent basis, by approximately 163% equaling a revenue increase of approximately \$110,900.

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 163%, equaling a revenue increase of approximately \$110,900 pr 100 % of the proposed permanent increase.

3. On July 29, 1980, Interim Order No. 4675 was issued in DOCKET NO. 80.6.44. This order granted the applicant an increase in sewer rates effective for sewer service rendered on and after August 1, 1980.

4. On August 8, 1980, the Mayor of Columbia Falls submitted a request for reconsideration of Interim Order No. 4675 requesting the Commission to authorize interim rates of 110% of the monthly water rates as opposed to the 98% of the monthly water rates granted in Order No. 4675.

5. The Applicant states that the City needs a rate of 110% of the monthly water rates to cover budget FY 1981

Operation and Maintenance Expense and Bond Retirement; and that the previously approved interim rate increase did not take account of Bond Retirement Costs.

6. The Commission finds that the applicant's request for reconsideration has merit and approves their request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and the subject matter in the 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.

4. The rates approved herein are, on the basis of the information available to the Commission at this time, to be reasonable and just.

ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Applicant file rates as set forth in Appendix AA@ annexed hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

2. The rules of operation currently in effect for the sewer utility shall remain in effect until a final order is issued in this docket.

3. The effective date shall be for sewer service rendered on and after August 18, 1980.

4. 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.

5. 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 this 18th day of August, 1980, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

JAMES R. SHEA, Commissioner

GEORGE TURMAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission 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.

APPENDIX >A=

Rate: Charged at 110% of the monthly water charge as approved in Order No. 4568 of the Montana Public Service Commission dated October 29, 1979.

	Monthly Usage	Rate per <u>1,000 gallons</u>
First	10,000 Gallons	\$1.32
Next	10,000 Gallons	1.21
Next	30,000 Gallons	1.00
Next	50,000 Gallons	.88
Next	100,000 Gallons	.72
Next	200,000 Gallons	.66
Next	600,000 Gallons	.55
Over	1,000,000 Gallons	.33

Minimum Monthly Sewer Charge - 6.60 per month.