

Service Date: March 19, 1981

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

IN THE MATTER of the Application) UTILITY DIVISION
by PACIFIC POWER AND LIGHT COM-) DOCKET NO. 80.8.67
PANY to adopt increased rates for) INTERIM ORDER NO. 4771
electric service.)

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 29, 1980 Pacific Power and Light Company (Applicant) applied to the Commission for authority to increase rates charged for electric service. The proposed tariffs filed with the application would increase revenues by \$4,373,000 over those of the test year.
2. On February 25 and 26, 1981 the Commission conducted a hearing in Kalispell, Montana on Applicant's requested rate increase.
3. Montana Consumer Counsel has been a party to these proceedings since the inception of this Docket.
4. In the pre-filed testimony and exhibits submitted on behalf of the Montana Consumer Counsel the need for a revenue increase of \$2,828,000 was acknowledged. (Exhibit cc-7, Schedule 3, Columns B and C, Line 1)
5. At the conclusion of the hearing, Applicant made an oral request for interim relief. On March 2, 1981 Applicant filed a written motion for interim relief in the amount of \$2,828,000.

6. In this Docket issues which relate to rate design will be considered in a hearing to be held at a latter date. Therefore pending rate design issues do not cloud consideration of interim rate relief at this time.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pacific Power and Light Company is a public utility furnishing electric service to consumers in the State of Montana. As such it is subject to the supervision, regulation and control of this Commission, Section 69-3-102, MCA.

2. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing or final decision."

3. The Commission concludes that an interim rate increase based upon the additional revenues conceded by Consumer Counsel is a reasonable means of providing interim relief to the Applicant.

4. If the final decision of the Commission is to disapprove the increase granted on an interim basis, the Commission will order a rebate thereof to all customers, Section 69-3-304, MCA.

ORDER

THEREFORE THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Pacific Power and Light Company is hereby granted authority to implement on an interim basis increased rates

designed to generate \$2,828,000 in additional revenues on an annual basis.

2. Pacific Power and Light Company is to file revised rate schedules spreading the increased revenues to the existing customer classes on a uniform percentage increase basis.

3. Nothing in this Interim Order precludes the Commission from adopting in its final order after reviewing the entire record in this Docket a revenue requirement different from that contained in this order.

4. The interim relief granted in this Order is to be effective for service rendered on and after March 16, 1981.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 16th day of March, 1981 by a vote of 5-0.

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

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. - 38.2.4806 ARM.