

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

\* \* \* \*

IN THE MATTER of the Application of )  
BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY )  
For Authority to Increase Electric )  
Rates. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

UTILITY DIVISION  
DOCKET NO. 81.10.87  
DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4853

On October 1, 1981, Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHPL) (Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to recover the increasing cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of June, July, and August, 1981.

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing to be held, if requested, was sent to the Montana Consumer Counsel, and all of the Applicant's Montana customers. The notice stated that if no requests for a public hearing were received by October 26, 1981, an appropriate order would be issued based upon evidence submitted with the application.
2. No protests nor requests for a hearing were received and no hearing was scheduled.

3. If increased fuel costs for the months of June, July, and August, 1981 are to be recovered, an increment of \$.00319 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$.00821 approved in Docket No. 6746 which results in a total fuel charge of \$.01140 per KWH.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceedings in this matter.

2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

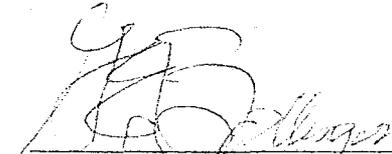
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of November, December, 1981 and January, 1982 is \$.00319 per KWH. This charge shall be in addition to the base cost approved in Docket No. 6746.

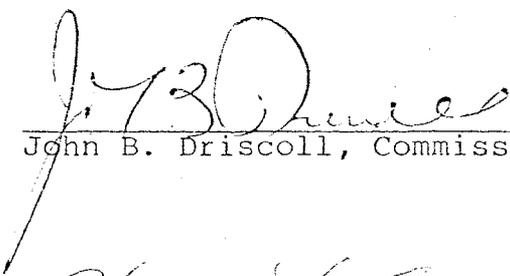
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after November 1, 1981.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana 59620 on October 26, 1981, by a vote of 5 to 0.

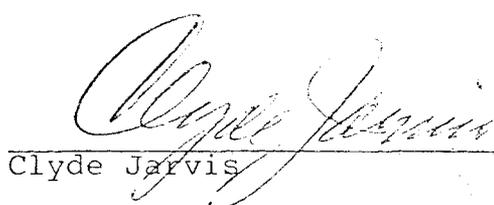
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

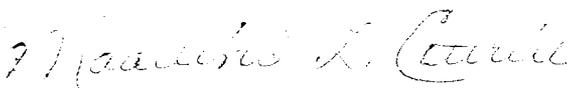
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

  
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John B. Driscoll, Commissioner

  
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Howard L. Ellis, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clyde Jarvis

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 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.

