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Service Date: April 10, 1981

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

* * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of CUT BANK GAS COMPANY for Au-)
thority to Increase Rates and)
Charges for Natural Gas Service.)

DOCKET NO. 81.3.33
ORDER NO. 4780
INTERIM RATE ORDER

81-14

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cut Bank Gas Company (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an Order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to recover all cost increases resulting from rate increases granted The Montana Power Company (Montana Power) in Docket No. 81.3.28.

2. On March 30, 1981, the Commission's Order No. 4775 in Docket No. 81.3.28 granted Montana Power a natural gas rate increase.

3. Order No. 4775 will result in increased purchased gas costs to Cut Bank Gas Company.

4. Cut Bank Gas Company alleges that it purchases ninety percent (90%) of its natural gas from The Montana Power Company.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing on 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 will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Cut Bank Gas Company is authorized to increase its rates to recover increased gas costs from Montana Power as a result of the Commission's Order No. 4775, and to file tariffs and supporting cost computations.

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.

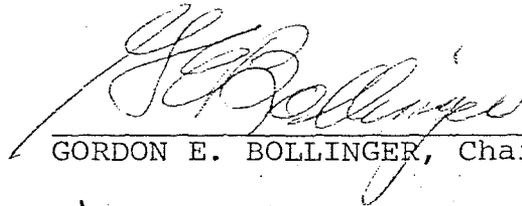
3. In the event a rebate is directed by a supplemental order in this Docket, provision shall be made in that order to cause all uncollected rebates to be escheated to the State of Montana, in the manner provided by law.

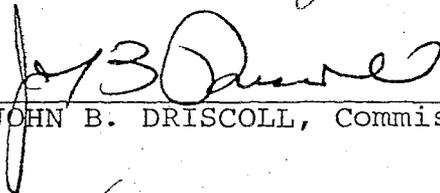
4. The increased rates shall be collected on a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.

5. The filed tariffs shall be effective for services rendered on and after April 3, 1981.

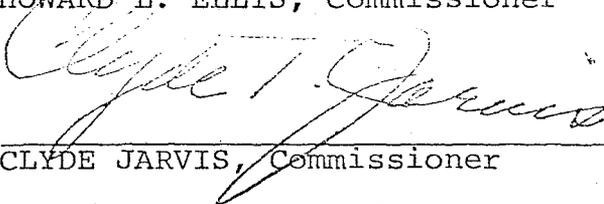
DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5-0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held in Helena, Montana on April 3, 1981.

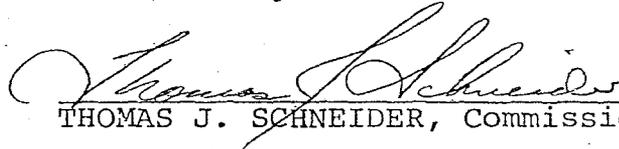
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.


GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

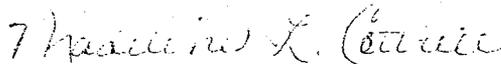

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner


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.