

Service Date: May 1, 1981

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. 81.3.37
DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4790

On March 30, 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 December 1980, January, and February, 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 April 24, 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 December 1980, January, and February, 1981 are to be recovered, an increment of \$.00364 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$.00821 approved in Docket No. 6746 which results in a total fuel charge of \$.01185 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:

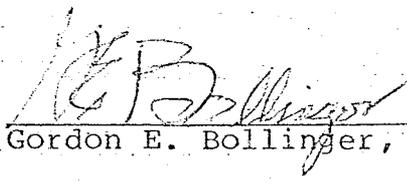
1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of May, June, and July, 1981 is \$.00364 per KWH. This charge shall be in addition to the base cost approved in Docket No. 6746.

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

DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana 59620 on April 27, 1981, by a vote of 4 to 0 .

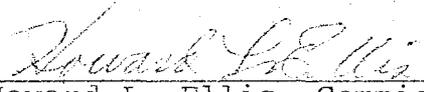
Docket No. 81.3.37, Default Order No. 4790

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman


Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner


John B. Driscoll, Commissioner


Howard L. Ellis, 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 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.

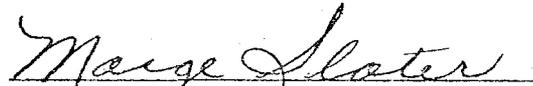
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

* * * *

I hereby certify that a copy of DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4790 in Docket No. 81.3.37, in the matter of BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY, dated April 27, 1981, has today been served on all the parties listed below by mailing a copy thereof to each by first class mail, postage prepaid.

Date: May 1, 1981


For the Commission

James C. Paine
Montana Consumer Counsel
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Helena, MT 59601

Dan Languth
Black Hills Power & Light Co.
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Rapid City, SD 57709