

Service Date: May 17, 1983

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

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IN THE MATTER Of The Application	)	
Of The MOUNTAIN STATES TELEPHONE	)	
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY (MOUNTAIN	)	
BELL) For Authority To Establish	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Rates And For Approval Of Generic	)	
Cost And Rate Design Methodology	)	DOCKET NO. 82.11.73
In Connection With The Implemen-	)	
tation Of Its Comprehensive Rural	)	ORDER NO. 4950c
Telephone Improvement Program	)	
(RTIP)	)	

ORDER ON MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION  
FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On April 21, 1983 the Montana Public Service Commission issued Order No. 4950b in Docket No. 82.11.73.
2. On May 2, 1983 The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company (Mountain Bell) filed a Motion For Reconsideration of Order No. 4950b. The Motion asked for Commission reconsideration regarding the appropriate method of accounting for the replacement of aerial drop wires with buried drop wires.
3. The Commission does not find the Company's reconsideration arguments compelling with regard to the drop wire issue. The Commission finds that it has adequately considered all of the issues stated in the reconsideration motion and will stand by the findings made in Order No. 4950b.
4. The Company's Motion also asked for clarification of Finding Of Fact No.7 as written in Order No. 4950b. This Finding relates to the rate of return allowed on the Company's involvement in the RTIP. Specifically Mountain Bell requested that the

Commission clarify its intent regarding the rate of return to be allowed on future investment in the RTIP.

5. The Commission does not intend to modify the 14.03% rate of return allowed for future RTIP investment providing that Mountain Bell:

- 1) Continues the Rural Telephone Improvement Program on schedule as outlined in Order No. 6950a; and
- 2) Assures the Commission that RTIP investment will be above and beyond normal outside plant investment by furnishing the Commission with information that demonstrates that ongoing non-RTIP capital expenditures will be maintained at normal levels. This information will be submitted before each construction season.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, Inc. is a corporation providing telephone and other communications services within the State of Montana and as such is a "public utility" within the meaning of MCA 69-3-101.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

#### ORDER

1. Motion For Reconsideration of Order No. 4950 in Docket No. 82.11.73 is HEREBY DENIED, but with the clarification stated in Finding No.5 of this order and with the following requirement.

2. On or before June 15, 1983 Mountain Bell is directed to furnish the Commission with the following:

- 1) Plant additions in each account (USOA 211-264) for the years 1976 through 1981;
- 2) Non-RTIP plant addition in each account for 1982;
- 3) Non-RTIP capital expenditure budget, by account, for 1983.

DONE AND DATED at Helena, Montana, this 9th day of May, 1983 by a 5 -0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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Thomas J. Schneider, Chairman

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Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner

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Danny Oberg, Commissioner

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Howard L. Ellis, Commissioner

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John B. Driscoll, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be entitled to judicial review in this matter. Judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days of the service of this order. Section 2-4-702, MCA.