

Service Date: January 12, 1984

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 Implement a Local)
Measured Service in the Billings)
Main Central Office.)

UTILITY DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 83.2.9
ORDER NO. 5035a

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ORDER ON MOTION
FOR RECONSIDERATION

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APPEARANCES

FOR THE APPLICANT:

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Lawrence D. Huss, Law Department, Mountain Bell, P.O. Box 1716, Helena, Montana 59624

FOR THE INTERVENOR:

John Allen, Staff Attorney, Montana Consumer Counsel, 34 West Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana
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FOR THE COMMISSION:

Calvin K. Simshaw, Staff Attorney, 1227 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620

BEFORE:

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Chairman
JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner
HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner
CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner
DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

INTRODUCTION

On December 15, 1983, the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) issued Order No. 5035. The Order sets forth the commission's findings with respect to Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company's (Mountain Bell) January 27, 1983 proposal to implement Local Measured Service in the Billings Main Central Office.

On December 23, 1983, Mountain Bell filed a Motion for Reconsideration and the Commission staff waived the rule requiring a response within ten (10) days.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Order No. 5035 required Mountain Bell, for an initial 60-day period, to provide detailed billing, upon request, to existing flat rate subscribers who are contemplating Local Measured Service (Finding No. 24). The intent of the finding was to provide customers with actual consumption information for purposes of enhancing the Local Measured Service decision.

2. Mountain Bell's Motion for Reconsideration proposes an alternative approach to customer information:

"a. Prospective customers will be screened by service representatives, and will be discouraged from trying LMS if their calling patterns exceed the likely break-even point. For example, a customer making an average of more than three five minute calls per day would be informed that savings were unlikely.

b. Customers still requesting the service will be converted to detailed billing without charge. These customers will be assured that if the detailed billing exceeds flat rate billing, their bill will be reduced to the flat rate level during the introductory period. Such customers will then be returned to flat rate billing.

c. At the end of the billing cycle during the introductory period, the Residence Service Center or Business Service Center will call the customers electing LMS to review with them their bills for the period and will make any necessary adjustments at that time.” (Motion pp 3-4)

3. The Commission finds that the Mountain Bell proposal may avoid some detailed billing costs while, through its use of service representatives, enhances the available customer information. Therefore, the Commission will adopt the modification proposed in the Motion to Reconsider.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Mountain Bell is a telephone utility rendering public service in Montana under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

2. The Commission has afforded full opportunity for public participation in this proceeding.

3. The rates approved herein are just and reasonable.

ORDER

Mountain Bell’s Motion for Reconsideration is accepted.

Order No. 5035 is modified as set forth herein.

DATED this 9th day of January 1984, by a vote of 4-0¹

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Thomas J. Schnieder, Chairman

John B. Driscoll, Commissioner

Howard L. Ellis, Commissioner

Danny Oberg, Commissioner

¹Commissioner Jarvis dissented in the original action approving implementation of optional local measured service (Order No. 5035) and, therefore, abstains from the modification of that implementation contained herein.

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE:

Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion

to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.