

Service Date: September 21, 1983

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

IN THE MATTER of the Application)
of THE GREAT FALLS GAS COMPANY for)
Authority to Increase Rates and)
Charges for Natural Gas Service.)

UTILITY DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 83.4.21
ORDER NO. 4998a

83-37

ORDER DISMISSING THE DOCKET

1. On April 6, 1983, Great Falls Gas Company (Applicant or GFG) filed a general rate case seeking increased annual revenues of \$462,862.

2. On July 6, 1983, the Commission issued Interim Order No. 4998, which granted GFG \$209,713 subject to rebate with interest of 14.50 percent to all customers.

3. The hearing in this Docket was scheduled to begin on September 13, 1983 in Great Falls.

4. On August 26, 1983, the Commission received a letter from GFG asking to formally withdraw the general filing from any further consideration. The reason for the request was a greatly increased load at Simmons Refinery. In the filing, volumes for Simmons were shown at 131,926 Mcf. However, the twelve months actual ending June, 1983, showed much higher volumes of 228,645 Mcf.

5. After reviewing the volatility of the Simmons load, the Commission agrees with GFG that representations about

future loads at the refinery are not a sound basis for setting rates. In accepting GFG's request to withdraw this case, the Commission directs the Company to refund all revenues collected under the Interim Order with interest of 14.5 percent.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Great Falls Gas Company is a public utility furnishing natural gas service to consumers in the State of Montana. As such, it is subject to the supervision, regulation and control of this Commission, Section 69-3-102, MCA.

2. The Commission has the authority to temporarily approve a rate increase pending a hearing or final decision on the matter. If the Commission's final decision is to disapprove the proposed rate increase, the Commission shall order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. Section 69-3-304, MCA.

ORDER

THEREFORE, THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Great Falls Gas Company is to return all revenues collected from Interim Order No. 4998 with interest of 14.5 percent.

2. Great Falls Gas Company is to file revised rate schedules which provide a one-time credit to all customers.

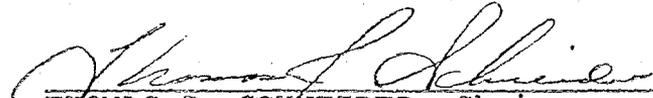
3. The decrease in rates granted in this Order is to

be effective for natural gas service rendered on and after September 12, 1983.

4. The amount to be rebated by Great Falls Gas Company to its customers is approximately \$12,254.

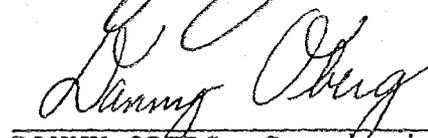
DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 12th day of September, 1983, by a vote of 4 - 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

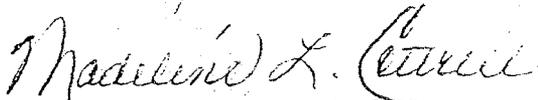

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Chairman


HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner


CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner


DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)