

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

* * * *

IN THE MATTER Of The Application)
Of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES COM-)
PANY For Authority To Implement)
A Late Payment Charge For Electric)
Service.)
_____)

UTILITY DIVISION
✓ DOCKET NO. 83.9.63
DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5025

✓ 83-44

DEFAULT ORDER

On September 12, 1983, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) filed a request with the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) for authority to implement a Late Payment Charge. The proposed Late Payment Charge, consisting of a 1% charge applied to any outstanding balance as of the second subsequent billing date, is identical to the charge recently approved by the Commission for the MDU gas operations.

The proposed Late Payment Charge reads as follows:

Bills will be considered past due if not paid by the due date shown on the bill. An amount equal to 1% per month will be applied to any unpaid balance existing at the second subsequent billing date, provided, however, that such amount shall not apply to any account where a written payment schedule has been arranged and complied with, or where the LIEA program is being utilized up to the point where the funds are exhausted and the recipient has full responsibility for the account. In the event of a breach of a written payment arrangement, an amount equal to 1% of the total remaining unpaid balance shall apply beginning 60 days after the date of the last payment under the payment arrangement. Such amount shall also apply (where the LIEA program was utilized) to the total remaining unpaid balance on all accounts beginning 60 days after LIEA program no longer applies to such account.

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by MDU/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 was issued on September 23, 1983 and published as a legal notice in the Billings Gazette, Miles City Star, and the Fallon County Times.
2. The Notice stated that if no requests for a public hearing were received by October 24, 1983, the Commission would consider the matter and a default order would be issued.
3. No requests for a public hearing were received. The Commission, therefore, approves the proposed electric late payment charge.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceedings in this matter.

ORDER

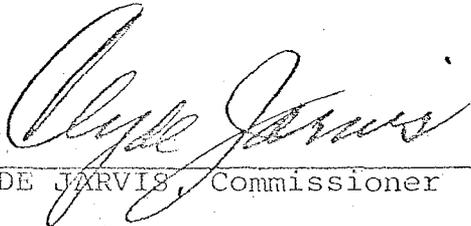
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Rate 135, providing a late payment charge for electric service, be implemented as proposed.
2. Rate 135 shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after October 31, 1983

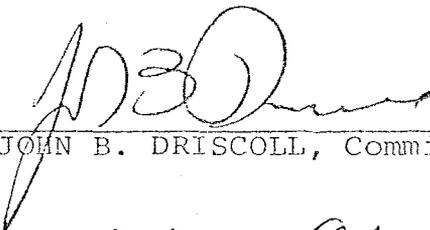
DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena Montana on October 31, 1983, by
a 5 - 0 vote.

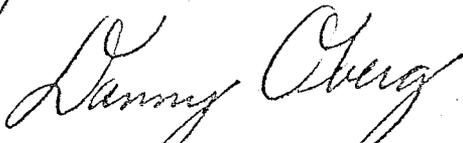
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.


THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Chairman

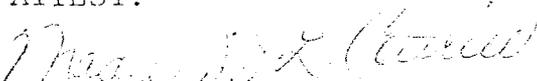

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner


HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner


JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner


DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 28.2.4806, ARM.