

Service Date: February 19, 1985

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 by) UTILITY DIVISION
MONTANA POWER COMPANY for)
Authority to Increase Rates for) DOCKET NO. 84.11.71
Electric Service.)

IN THE MATTER of the Commission's)
Investigation of Electric Avoided Cost) DOCKET NO. 84.10.64
Rates.)

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ORDER ON OBJECTION AND MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION
FILED BY THE MONTANA POWER COMPANY

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1. On January 31, 1985, the Montana Power Company (MPC) filed an Objection and Motion for Reconsideration to the Commission's Procedural Order. The pleading claimed that the Commission's intended use of evidence developed in Docket No. 85.10.64 is barred on two grounds: 1) The subject matter is not relevant to the issues in this case; 2) Such use would violate 2-4-614, MCA, and the Montana Rules of Evidence.

2. The Commission understands MPC's position regarding the relevance of information regarding the present value of electricity. However, the Commission's Orders in Docket No. 83.9.67 made it abundantly clear that such information is extremely relevant to the Commission in its consideration of rate treatment for Colstrip 3. MPC has taken the issue to District Court, where the case is currently pending. Thus, all parts of the Orders in Docket No. 83.9.67 remain in affect, including the Commission's conclusion that information on the value of electricity is relevant.

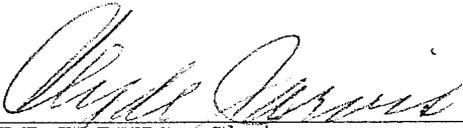
3. MPC's arguments regarding 2-4-614, MCA, and the rules of evidence have some merit from a very technical legal point of view. In order to address those concerns, the Commission finds that it is appropriate to consolidate Dockets 84.10.64 and 84.11.71. In order to avoid confusion, both docket numbers will continue to be used, and separate service lists will continue to be maintained.

ORDER

It is ordered that Dockets 84.10.64 and 84.11.71 are hereby consolidated.

Done this 19th day of February, 1985, by a vote of 5-0 .

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.



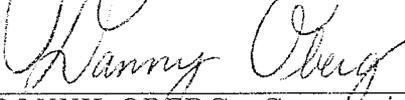
CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman



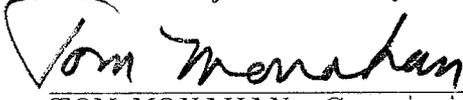
HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner



JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

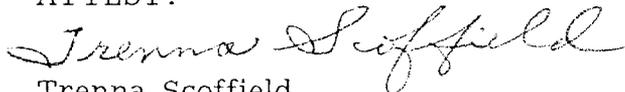


DANNY OBERG, Commissioner



TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Trena Scofield
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)