

Service Date: October 21, 1986

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

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Billing for)	UTILITY DIVISION
AT&T Communications' InterLATA)	DOCKET NO. 84.11.70
Private Line Services.)	ORDER NO. 5230

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On November 29, 1984, the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) issued an Order to Show Cause to AT&T Communications (AT&T) concerning the use of retroactive private line billing to Montana customers.

2. On February 5, 1985, Mountain Bell, AT&T's billing agent, was joined as a third-party respondent in the docket.

3. On July 2, 1985, Mountain Bell, and AT&T filed an agreement with the Commission stating that all retroactively billed amounts would be removed from customers private line, bills or refunded. Mountain Bell and AT&T would share equally in the amount of the credit plus any administration costs. The procedural process was delayed so that Mountain Bell and AT&T could work out the details of this arrangement.

4. On October 2, 1986, AT&T filed a statement with the Commission that all private line refunds had been completed. The total amount refunded to private line customers was \$38, 778.17.

5. Pursuant to the 1985 Montana Telecommunications Act, private line services are no longer regulated. Because this matter arose prior to the Act, the Commission continued its investigation into the billing of private line services under regulation.

6. The Commission finds that the removal of disputed retroactively billed amounts and the refunds of all amounts billed retroactively and paid by customers satisfactorily resolves

this docket. The Commission reiterates its policy that rate increases granted by the Commission and not put into effect by the utility cannot be billed to customers retroactively.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. and Mountain Bell both furnish regulated telecommunications services in the state of Montana and are public utilities under the jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. Section 69-3-101, MCA.

ORDER

1. The investigation into the billing for AT&T Communications' InterLATA Private Line Services is hereby CLOSED.

DATED in open session at Helena, Montana, this 20th day of October, 1986, by a 5-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell
Acting 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 38.2.4806, ARM.