

Service Date: July 8, 1986

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 SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMPANY to Revise the Depreciation)	DOCKET NO. 86.5.22
Rates for its Utility Plant Accounts.)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 5213

On May 5, 1986 Southern Montana Telephone Company filed a request to revise the depreciation rates for its telephone utility plant accounts. The rates proposed would increase the overall composite depreciation rate for the accounts affected from 4.56% to 6.65%. Annual depreciation accruals would increase from approximately \$210,042 to \$305,904. Southern Montana Telephone requests a January 1, 1986 effective date.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on June 5, 1986. The notice was served on the Montana Consumer Counsel and Mountain Bell and was published in the Montana Standard and in the Dillon Tribune-Examiner. The notice stated if no requests for hearing were received by June 30, 1986, a default order could be issued.
2. No requests for hearing or comments on the application have been received by the Commission.
3. The Commission finds that the request of Southern Montana Telephone is reasonable. Southern Montana Telephone did not request a revenue increase to accompany this change in depreciation rates. Any increased revenues requested at a later date to recover depreciation increases will be subject to further Commission review.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Southern Montana Telephone Company furnishes regulated telecommunications services within the state of Montana and is a “public utility” under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant’s Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

ORDER

1. Southern Montana Telephone Company’s request for revised depreciation rates is hereby GRANTED.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 7th day of July, 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:

Trenna Scoffield
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.