

Service Date: October 18, 1988

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

\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE MATTER Of The Application )  
Of CUT BANK GAS CO. For Authority ) UTILITY DIVISION  
To Increase Rates & Charges For ) DOCKET NO. 88.10.38  
Natural Gas Service. ) INTERIM ORDER NO. 5366  
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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. CUT BANK GAS COMPANY (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to reflect all cost increases resulting from rate increases granted The Montana Power Company (Company) in Docket No. 88.6.15.

2. On October 11, 1988, the Commission's Interim Order No. 5360a granted Montana Power a natural gas rate increase.

3. Order No. 5360a will result in increased purchased gas costs to Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant is a corporation providing service within the State of Montana and as such is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.

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

3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision."

4. The rate levels and spread approved herein are reasonable. The rebate provisions of Section 69-3-304, MCA protect ratepayers in the event that any revenue increases authorized by this Order are found to be unjustified in the final order in this Docket.

ORDER

1. Applicant, Cut Bank Gas Company, is hereby granted interim relief reflecting Findings of Fact in this Order.

2. Such relief is to become effective for services rendered on and after October 14, 1988, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.

3. The increased rates shall be collected upon a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.

4. Interim revenues granted herein are subject to rebate should the final order in this Docket disapprove this interim revenue increase.

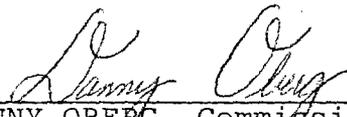
DONE AND DATED at Helena, Montana this 14th day of October by a 5 - 0 vote.

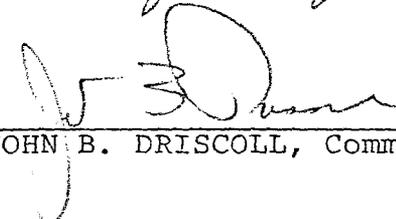
BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
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CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

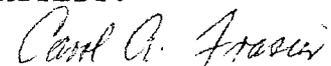
  
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HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

  
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TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

  
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DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

  
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JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Carol A. Frasier  
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.