

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	)	UTILITY DIVISION
of CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY for	)	DOCKET NO. 90.10.68
Authority to Increase Rates and	)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 5511
Charges for Natural Gas Service	)	
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FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 16, 1990, Consumers Gas Company (Applicant, CG, Company) filed an application seeking authority to increase rates for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to reflect higher purchased gas costs from Treasure State Pipeline Company (TSP). The amount of the increase from TSP was \$.94 per Mcf.

2. On November 13, 1990, the Commission received a letter from Greg Holt asking that the rate increases for TSP and CG be put on hold until an evaluation could be made as to improvements in gas deliveries from J. R. Bacon Drilling.

3. On December 11, 1990, CG filed an amended application in Docket No. 90.10.68. In the amended application, CG requested an increase of \$.25 per Mcf to reflect higher purchased gas costs from TSP. Due to Finding of Fact No. 4 in Order No. 5512, it is necessary to reduce the \$.25 per Mcf to \$.22 per Mcf (rounded). This results in a new rate of \$8.86 per Mcf.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant 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.

ORDER

1. Applicant is hereby granted an increase in rates to \$8.86 per Mcf on an interim basis, reflecting the Findings of Fact in this Order.

2. Such increase is to become effective upon approval of the new tariff, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.

3. If the final decision of the Commission is to disapprove all or part of the increase granted on an interim basis, the Commission will order a rebate thereof with interest at 12 percent to all customers.

4. The nine month deadline for a final decision in this Docket begins from the date of the amended application which is December 11, 1990.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 17th day of December, 1990, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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HOWARD L. ELLIS, Chairman

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DANNY OBERG, Vice Chairman

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WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

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JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

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REX MANUEL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Peck  
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.

