

Service Date: March 19, 1991

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 MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. for) UTILITY DIVISION
Authority to Issue Not to Exceed) DOCKET NO. 91.3.5
\$70,000,000 of First Mortgage Bonds.) DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5546

On March 4, 1991, MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Applicant or Company) filed an application seeking authority to issue not to exceed in aggregate \$70,000,000 principal amount of one or more series of its First Mortgage Bonds under its Indenture of Mortgage, dated as of May 1, 1939, as amended, and/or secured or unsecured medium term notes. The Bonds, or any secured medium term notes, will be issued pursuant to one or more supplemental indentures to the Mortgage and will be secured equally with other First Mortgage Bonds of the Applicant. Unsecured notes would be issued under an indenture between Applicant and a trustee to be named. The application is filed pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 5, MCA.

The application was supported by exhibits and data in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission governing the authorization of issuance of securities by electric and gas utility companies operating within Montana. For detailed information with respect to the general character of Applicant's business and the territory served by it, references made to its annual report are on file with the Commission.

At a regular open session of the Montana Public Service Commission, held at its offices on March 18, 1991, there came before the Commission for final action the matters in this Docket and the Commission, having fully considered the application and data and records pertaining thereto on file with the Commission and being fully advised in the premises, makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Applicant is a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware and is qualified to transact business in the State of Montana.

2. Applicant is operating as a public utility as defined in 69-3-101 and 69-3-102, MCA, and as such is engaged in furnishing electric and gas service in Montana.

3. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of said application under Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 5, MCA.

4. The proceeds from the issuance of the First Mortgage Bonds and/or secured or unsecured medium term notes will be used to finance the retirement of Corporate Securities, including the refunding of outstanding bonds, and other general corporate purposes.

5. The transactions proposed by Applicant (1) are consistent with the public interest; (2) are for a purpose or purposes permitted under the laws of the State of Montana; (3) are necessary or appropriate for and consistent with the proper performance by the Applicant of service as a public utility; and (4) will not result in a situation in which the aggregate amount of the securities outstanding and proposed herein to be outstanding will exceed the fair value of the properties and business of the Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The securities transactions proposed by Applicant, as herein authorized, will be for a lawful purpose and are consistent with the public interest; the same are necessary, appropriate and consistent with the necessary performance of Applicant of service as a public utility; the aggregate amount of securities outstanding and proposed to be outstanding will not exceed the fair value of the properties and business of the Applicant.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commission:

1. The application of MDU Resources Group, Inc. for

authority to issue not to exceed in aggregate \$70,000,000 in principal amount of one or more series of First Mortgage Bonds and/or secured or unsecured medium term notes as proposed in the application is hereby approved and authority is granted.

2. Neither the issuance of securities by Applicant pursuant to the provisions of this order nor any other act or deed done or performed in connection therewith, shall be construed to obligate the State of Montana to pay or guarantee in any manner whatsoever any securities authorized, issued, assumed or guaranteed hereunder.

3. The approval of this application shall not be construed as precedent to prejudice any future action of this Commission with regard to any security issue.

4. Issuance of the order does not constitute acceptance of the Applicant's exhibits or other material accompanying the application for any purpose other than the issuance of this order.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana this 18th day of March, 1991, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Chairman

DANNY OBERG, Vice Chairman

WALLACE W. "WALLY" MERCER, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

BOB ANDERSON, 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.