

Service Date: January 11, 1995

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 The Town of Columbus To Increase)
Rates And Charges For Water Service)
In Its Columbus, Montana Service Area.)

UTILITY DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 94.11.53
ORDER NO. 5825

* * * * *

DEFAULT ORDER GRANTING WATER RATE INCREASE APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

1. On November 17, 1994, the Town of Columbus (Applicant or Town) filed an Application with the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission or PSC) requesting that, pursuant to its jurisdiction established by Title 69, including Chapters 3 and 7, MCA, the Commission authorize a water rate increase to provide revenues to conduct capital improvements to the system. The proposed 26 percent increase will generate approximately \$43,207 in additional annual revenues.

2. On December 6, 1994, the PSC issued a Notice of Opportunity For Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If no hearing is requested by January 5, 1995, no hearing will be held and an appropriate order may be issued based upon evidence submitted with the Application."

3. The PSC has received no protest or request for hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

4. On October 3, 1994, the Town Council of the Town of Columbus passed a resolution to request PSC approval of the proposed rates.

5. The Town needs additional revenue to conduct capital improvements to the system.

6. The proposed rates will increase annual revenues by approximately \$43,207, or an increase of 26 percent in total annual revenues from water rates.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant, the Town of Columbus, is a public utility as defined in § 69-3-101, MCA. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over municipal utility rate increase Applications in excess of 12% in total annual revenues. Section 69-7-102, MCA.

2. The PSC has provided adequate public notice and an opportunity to be heard as required by §69-3-303, MCA, and Title 2, Chapter 4, MCA (Montana Administrative Procedures Act).

3. The rates and rate structure in this Order are just and reasonable. Sections 69-3-201 and 69-3-330, MCA.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The rates as filed by the Applicant with its Application are authorized.
2. The rates shall be effective for service rendered on and after January 9, 1995.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on this 9th day of January, 1995, by a 5-0 vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NANCY McCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
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.