

Service Date: January 30, 2002

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 BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a	)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER, Inc.	)	DOCKET NO. D2001.12.172
for Authority to Decrease its Quarterly	)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 6396
Fuel Rate Rider.	)	

On December 24, 2001, Black Hills Corporation d/b/a Black Hills Power Inc. (BHP or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to § 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to decrease its electric rates in order to reflect the decreased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of September, October and November 2001.

On December 31, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by January 29, 2002, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

Having considered the application and the documentation furnished by the Applicant in support of its application and deeming itself fully advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. If decreased fuel costs for the months of September, October and November 2002, are to be recovered, a credit of (\$.00309) must be subtracted from the base fuel cost of \$.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which

results in a total fuel charge of \$.00931 per Kwh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will decrease revenues by approximately \$10,220 below fuel costs authorized in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The number of customers presently being served in Montana is 35.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceeding in this matter.
2. The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of February, March and April 2002 is (\$.00309) per kWh. This credit shall be subtracted from the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.
2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after February 1, 2002.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 29th day of January, 2002, by a vote of 5 - 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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GARY FELAND, Chairman

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JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

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BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

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MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

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BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons  
Commission 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 ARM 38.2.4806.