

Service Date: December 6, 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	)	UTILITY DIVISION
Of HAVRE PIPELINE COMPANY	)	DOCKET NO. D2002.8.99
To Decrease Rates and Charges	)	ORDER NO. 6443a
To Its Farm Tap Customers.	)	

\* \* \* \* \*

ORDER GRANTING RATE DECREASE

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On August 1, 2002, the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) received an Application from Havre Pipeline Company (Havre) for authority to decrease rates and charges for natural gas service to its Montana rural farm tap customers. The new rate for natural gas service to these customers will be \$2.0484 per MCF, a decrease of \$1.2316 per MCF from the current rate of \$3.2800 per MCF. This decrease will affect approximately 135 customers, for an average annual farm tap gas bill decrease of \$354.00.

2. On August 13, 2002, the PSC, at its regularly scheduled business meeting, noticed the Application for rate decrease. At this same meeting, the PSC approved this Application on a final basis. On August 27, 2002, the PSC at the request of staff, rescinded its final approval of the Application and approved it on an interim basis. On September 11, 2002, the PSC issued a Notice of Application and Intervention Deadline, with petitions to intervene due on September 23, 2002. On September 11, 2002, the PSC issued Order No. 6443 detailing a procedural schedule in this

docket.

3. On September 20, 2002, the Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC) filed a Petition for Intervention requesting general intervention in this proceeding. On November 6, 2002, the MCC notified the PSC that it had reviewed the Application and had no objections to the filing.

4. Having reviewed this application, the PSC finds that this increase is just and reasonable, and hereby accepts it.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant, Havre Pipeline Company, is a public utility as defined in §69-3-101, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over public utilities, pursuant to its authority under Title 69, Chapter 3, 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 PSC approves the rates and tariffs for Havre Pipeline Company, on a final basis, which shall be effective for service rendered on and after December 1, 2002.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2002 by a 5-0 vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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GARY FELAND, Chairman

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JAY STOVALL, Vice Chair

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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 that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.