

Service Date: September 3, 2004

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF CUT BANK GAS)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMPANY Application of Increased Rates for)	
Natural Gas Service)	DOCKET NO. D2004.3.47
)	ORDER NO. 6587
)	
)	

Interim Order

Findings of Fact

On March 30, 2004, Cut Bank Gas Company (CBG) filed application to increase its rates for natural gas service. CBG requested an increase of \$2.00 in the monthly service charge from \$5.55 to \$7.55, and an increase in the sales price per MCF of \$0.07.

On June 24, 2004, CBG requested interim rate relief to increase its rates to \$7.55 for the monthly service charge and to increase the sales price per MCF \$0.07.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Cut Bank Gas Company provides natural gas service within the State of Montana and as such is a “public utility” within the meaning of § 69-3-101, MCA.
2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the CBG’s rates and operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.
3. The Commission may at its discretion, within the scope of § 69-3-304, MCA, make temporary approvals of requests pending a hearing or final decision.
4. The rate levels and spread approved in this Order are a reasonable means of providing interim relief to MPC. The rebate provisions of § 69-3-304, MCA, protect ratepayers until there is a final Order in this Docket.

ORDER

THEREFORE THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. CBG shall implement, on an interim basis, a rate increase of \$2.00 per customer meter.
 2. CBG shall implement, on an interim basis, a rate increase of \$0.07 per MCF.
 3. CBG shall adhere to and abide by all Findings of Fact in this Interim Order. All rate schedules shall comply with all determinations set forth in this Interim Order.
 4. CBG must file tariffs in compliance with the Findings of Fact in this Interim Order.
 5. Nothing in this Order precludes the Commission from adopting in its Final Order a revenue requirement different from that contained in this Interim Order.
 6. Any interest associated with a refund that might result from the final revenue increase granted in this Order will be computed at the approved return on equity granted in the Final Order.
 7. Interim approval of any matters in this proceeding should not be viewed as final endorsement by the Commission of any issues, calculations, or methodologies approved in this Order.
 8. This Interim Order is effective for service on and after August 24, 2004.
- DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on this 24th day of August, 2004, by a 5 to 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BOB ROWE, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
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 38.2.4806, ARM.