

Service Date: January 25, 2006

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

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	
of BLACK HILLS CORPORATION d/b/a)	UTILITY DIVISION
BLACK HILLS POWER, Inc.)	DOCKET NO. D2005.12.176
for Authority to Increase its Quarterly)	DEFAULT ORDER NO. 6706
Fuel Rate Rider)	

DEFAULT ORDER

On December 21, 2005, 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 increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of September, October and November 2005.

On December 23, 2005, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated, "If, however, no hearing is requested by January 23, 2006, 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 increased fuel costs for the months of September, October and November 2005, are to be recovered, a charge of \$0.00929 must be added to the base fuel cost of \$0.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25, which results in a total fuel charge of \$0.02169 per kWh. The Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider will increase revenues by approximately \$46,632 above 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 2006 is \$0.00929 per kWh. This charge shall be added to 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, 2006.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, on this 24th day of January, 2006, by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, 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 ARM 38.2.4806.