

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

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IN THE MATTER OF MONTANA POWER)	UTILITY DIVISION
COMPANY, Application to Initiate Propane)	DOCKET NO. D95.7.97
Vapor Service in Townsend, Montana)	ORDER NO. 5867a

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INTERIM ORDER

BACKGROUND

1. On July 24, 1995, The Montana Power Company (MPC) filed an Application before the Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) for approval of initial rates for propane vapor service to customers in Townsend, Montana. MPC requested approval of the rates on an interim basis.
2. MPC filed for approval of the proposed tariffs and schedules with customer rates for customers with 1/2 inch pipe and 1 inch pipe service sizes.

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND DISCUSSION

3. MPC's proposed tariff for 1/2 inch pipe service size customers includes a minimum monthly customer charge of \$4.30 and for customers with a 1 inch pipe service size a minimum monthly customer charge of \$10.20. There is also a base rate of \$7.945 per Dkt for all customers.
4. MPC is requesting the flexibility to adjust the base commodity rate plus or minus 10 percent, on a monthly basis, to adjust to market conditions and meet competitive pressures.
5. Under this tariff, if a customer terminates service and subsequently requests a service reconnect at the same address within 24 months, MPC reserves the right to charge that customer the monthly fixed charges not paid during the time of termination.
6. The PSC finds that MPC's proposed rates for propane vapor service have a reasonable basis as projected for interim purposes. The commission determines that this filing

should be approved on an interim basis contingent upon the outcome of the public hearing scheduled in this matter.

7. Further, the Commission approves the Application for the flexibility adjustment of ± 10 percent from the rates proposed and filed, on an interim basis only.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Public Service Commission is responsible for the supervision regulation, and control of public utilities pursuant to the provision of Title 69, Section 69-3-102, MCA

2. The Montana Power company is a public utility subject to the PSC's jurisdiction § 69-3-101, MCA.

3. The propane vapor service offered to Townsend, Montana, is subject to the regulatory authorization of the PSC

4. the Montana Power company is required to file with the PSC tariffs showing all rate, tolls, and charges and all rules affecting rates to be charged. Section 69-3-301, MCA.

ORDER

1. The Montana Power Company shall file tariffs pursuant to the directives in this Order and shall supplement the tariff filings when a charge varies from the filed rates within the range of flexibility provided. Montana Power Company is granted authority, on an interim basis, to charge for propane vapor service in Townsend Montana.

2. This Order is contingent upon the outcome of the public hearing held in this matter.

3. The interim relief granted in this Order is to be effective upon pressurization of the system

4 This Order is subject to rebate when the PSC issues a Final Order in this Docket if the final Order reflects rates, tolls, and charges lower than approved in this Order.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 24th day of September, 1995, by a 5 to 0 vote.

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

