

Service Date: February 9, 1998

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 HAVRE PIPELINE COMPANY)	UTILITY DIVISION
To Increase Rates and Charges for)	DOCKET NO. D97.7.134
Natural Gas Service to its Rural)	ORDER NO. 6045
Farmstead Customers in Montana.)	

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DEFAULT ORDER GRANTING RATE INCREASE
BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 25, 1997, the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) received an Application from Havre Pipeline Company (Havre) for authority to increase rates and charges for natural gas service to its Montana Rural Farmstead Customers.

The new rate for natural gas service to these customers will be \$1.1566 per MCF, an increase of \$0.2560 per MCF from the current rate of \$0.9006 per MCF. This increase will affect approximately 105 customers, for an average annual farm tap gas bill increase of \$94.00 and an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$9,870.

2. On September 24, 1997, the PSC issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing with requests for hearing due by October 10, 1997. The PSC received one request for hearing, filed by the Montana Consumer Counsel on October 10, 1997.

3. On December 3, 1997, the Montana Consumer Counsel filed a Withdrawal of Request for Hearing.

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, which shall be effective for service rendered on and after February 3, 1998.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on this 3rd day of February, 1998 by a 5-0 vote.

BY THE ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY McCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
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.