Service Date: June 21, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER of the Application of the SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Natural Gas Service.	Docket No. 6512 Order No. 4354 TEMPORARY RATE ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On June 10, 1977, SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION made application to this Commission for authority to increase rates in order to offset increased gas costs charged by The Montana Power Company as a result of Docket No. 6454.

2. Shelby Gas Association purchases one hundred percent (100%) of its gas from The Montana Power Company.

3. On June 9, 1977, this Commission granted Montana Power Company a temporary increase in its natural gas rates. Included in the temporary rate increase order was authorization to increase charges to Montana Power's small utility customers.

4. This increase will result in a corresponding expense increase to Shelby Gas Association.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Under Revised Codes of Montana 1947, Section 70-113, the Commission has authority to grant a temporary rate increase pending hearing.

2. The application of Shelby Gas Association will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Shelby Gas As. ation is authorized to increase its rates to cover increased gas costs fro : Montana Power Company as a result of Commission

Order No. 4350, and to file tariffs and supporting calculations.

2. The increase granted herein is subject to rebate should the final Order in this Docket determine that a lesser increase than authorized by this Order is required.

3. In the event a rebate is directed by the final Order in this Docket, provision shall be made in that Order to cause all uncollected rebates to be escheated to the State of Montana in the manner provided by law.

4. The increased rates shall be collected upon a constant, uniform cents per mcf basis.

5. The filed tariffs shall be effective for natural gas delivered during the next full billing period after June 20, 1977.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 3-0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held June 14, 1977.

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gail E. Behan
Secretary

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

(SEAL)

James R. Shea, Commissioner

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of this Order. Judicial review may be obtained by filing within thirty (30) days from the service of this Order a petition for review pursuant to Section 82-4216, RCM 1947.