Service Date: February 21, 1979

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

* * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application of the SACO MUNICIPAL GAS SERVICE for authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates.	DOCKET NO. 6645 DEFAULT ORDER NO. 4490

On December 22, 1978, the Saco Municipal Gas Service (Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission requesting that the Commission, pursuant to jurisdiction granted by 70-101, et seq., RCM 1947 authorizing Applicant to increase natural gas rates in order to offset the rising costs of labor, production of natural gas, general maintenance, cleaning natural gas wells,and to repair the distribution system.

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, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1.) A Notice of Proposed Public Hearing to be held if requested, was published in the January 25, 1979, edition of the Phillips County News and the January 18, 1979, edition of the Glasgow Courier, and the January 18, 1979, edition of the Great Falls Tribune. The Notice stated that if no requests for a public hearing were received by February 13, 1979, an appropriate order would be issued based upon evidence submitted with the application.

2.) No requests for hearing were received and no hearing was scheduled.

3.) The Applicant alleges it needs additional revenue to defray the rising costs of labor, production of natural gas, general maintenance, cleaning natural gas wells, and to repair the distribution system.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1.) The Commission has jurisdiction over parties and proceedings in this matter.

2.) The resulting rate levels are reasonable and just.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1.) The following monthly rates are authorized:

For all services rendered between March 1, 1979, and December 31, 1979.

FIRST	6000 cu. ft. per. mo. or less	$2.40
NEXT	44,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.48 per MCF
NEXT	55,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.42 per MCF
NEXT	100,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.36 per MCF
NEXT	300,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.30 per MCF
OVER	500,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.24 per MCF

For all services rendered between January 1, 1980, and December 31, 1980.

FIRST	6000 cu. ft. per. mo. or less	$2.80
NEXT	44,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.56 per MCF
NEXT	55,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.49 per MCF
NEXT	100,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.42 per MCF
NEXT	300,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.35 per MCF
OVER	500,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.28 per MCF

For all services rendered between January 1, 1981, and December 31, 1981.

FIRST	6000 cu. ft. per. mo. or less	$3.20
NEXT	44,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.64 per MCF
NEXT	55,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.56 per MCF
NEXT	100,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.48 per MCF
NEXT	300,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.40 per MCF
OVER	500,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.32 per MCF

For all services rendered between January 1, 1982, and December 31, 1982.

FIRST	6000 cu. ft. per. mo. or less	$3.60
NEXT	44,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.72 per MCF
NEXT	55,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.63 per MCF
NEXT	100,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.54 per MCF
NEXT	300,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.45 per MCF
OVER	500,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.36 per MCF

For all services rendered between January 1, 1983, and December 31, 1983.

FIRST	6000 cu. ft. per. mo. or less	$4.00
NEXT	44,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.80 per MCF
NEXT	55,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.70 per MCF
NEXT	100,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.60 per MCF
NEXT	300,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.50 per MCF
OVER	500,000 cu. ft. per. mo.	.40 per MCF

Special Terms and Conditions:

SERVICE TURN-OFF: When a customer's account is unpaid fifteen days after the bill is rendered his service shall be turned off and a charge of $5.00 will be assessed for turning it on.

CHARGE FOR SERVICE TURN ON OR OFF: A charge of $5.00 will be assessed when a customer's service is turned on within one year after a previous turn on at same location.

2.) The approved rates shall be effective for natural gas service rendered on and after March 1, 1979, and other dates as specifically stated in #1 above.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION in Helena, Montana, on February 20, 1979 by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Gordon E. Bollinger, Chairman

Clyde T. Jarvis, Commissioner

James R. Shea, Commissioner

George Turman, Commissioner

Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Joyce R. Bauemberger (Acting Secretary)
Madeline L. Cottrill,
Secretary

(Seal)

NOTICE: You are entitled to judicial review of the final decision in this matter. If no Motion For Reconsideration is filed, judicial review may be obtained by filing a petition for review within thirty (30) days from the service of this order. If a Motion For Reconsideration is filed, a Commission order is final for purpose of appeal upon the entry of a ruling on tha motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. The Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Section 82-4216, RCM 1947; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure esp. 3802.2 (64)-P2750, ARM