READING FILE

Service Date: September 22, 1981

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

* * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application of SHELBY GAS ASSOCIATION for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Natural Gas Service.	UTILITY DIVISION DOCKET NOS. 81.3.34 and 81.7.76 ORDER NO. 4781a INTERIM RATE ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Shelby Gas Association (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an Order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to recover all cost increases resulting from rate increases granted The Montana Power Company (Montana Power) in Docket Nos. 81.3.28 and 81.6.57

2. On August 28, 1981, the Commission's Order No. 4775a in Docket Nos. 81.3.28 and 81.6.57 granted Montana Power a natural gas rate increase.

3. Order No. 4775a will result in increased purchased gas costs to Shelby Gas Association.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases pending a hearing on final action. If the

final action is to disapprove the increase the Commission shall order a rebate to all consumers for the amount collected retroactive to the date of the temporary approval. 69-3-304, MCA.

2. The application will be noticed for hearing at a later date.

ORDER

1. Shelby Gas Association is authorized to increase its rates to recover increased gas costs from Montana Power as a result of the Commission's Order No. 4775a, and to file tariffs and supporting cost computations.

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 a supplemental 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 on a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.

5. The filed tariffs shall be effective for services rendered on and after September 7, 1981.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION by a vote of 5-0 at a meeting of the Public Service Commission held in Helena, Montana on August 28, 1981.

DOCKET NOS. 81.3.34 and 81.7.76, ORDER NO. 4781a

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

GORDON E. BOLLINGER, Chairman

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

CLYDE JARVIS, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: You may be 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 that motion, or upon the passage of ten (10) days following the filing of that motion. cf. the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, esp. Sec. 2-4-702, MCA; and Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure, esp. 38.2.4806 ARM.