Service Date: July 19, 1983

BEFORE THE UTILITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. for Authorization of the Issuance of up to 750,000 additional shares of Common Stock.	)	Docket No. 83.6.49 Default Order No. 5002

On June 29, 1983, MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., hereinafter referred to as Applicant, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, and qualified to transact business in Montana, filed with the Montana Public Service Commission its verified Application, pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 5, MCA, requesting an order for authority to issue up to 750,000 additional shares of Common Stock, par value $10, pursuant to the Applicant's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan as proposed in the Application. The Application was supported by exhibits and data in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission governing the authorization of issuance of securities by electric and gas utility companies operating within Montana. For detailed information with respect to the general character of Applicant's business and territory served by it, reference is made to its annual report on file with the Commission.

At a regular open session of the Montana Public Service Commission, held in its offices on July 18, 1983, there came before the Commission for final action the matters and things in this docket and the Commission, having fully considered the Application and all the data and records pertaining thereto on file with the Commission and being fully advised in the premises, makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Applicant is a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware and is qualified to transact business in the State of Montana.

2. Applicant is operating as a public utility as defined in Sections 69-3-101 and 69-3-102, MCA (Section 70-103, RCM 1947), and as such is engaged in furnishing electric and gas service in Montana.

3. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of said Application under Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 5, MCA.

4. The securities proposed to be issued are up to 750,000 additional shares of Common Stock, par value $10, pursuant to the Applicant's Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan.

The Common Stock will in all respects rank equally with the outstanding shares of Common Stock, so that the holders thereof will participate in dividends equally with the holders of the outstanding shares and will have the same voting rights and liquidation rights with the other Commission Shareholders of the Applicant.

5. The proceeds from the issuance and sale of the Common Stock will be used to partially finance the Applicant's 1983-1987 utility capital requirements which may include the repayment of a portion of outstanding short-term borrowings incured for that purpose.

The Common Stock will be sold directly to each participating stockholder in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan.

6. The transactions proposed by Applicant (1) are consistent with the public interest, (2) are for a purpose or purposes permitted under the laws of the State of Montana, (3) are necessary or appropriate for and consistent with the proper performance by the Applicant of service as a public utility, and (4) will not result in a situation in which the aggregate amount of the securities outstanding and proposed herein to be outstanding will exceed the fair value of the properties and business of the Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The securities transactions proposed by Applicant, as herein authorized, will be for a lawful purpose and are consistent with the public interest; the same are necessary, appropriate and consistent with the proper performance of Applicant of service as a public utility; the aggregate amount of securities outstanding and proposed to be outstanding will not exceed the fair value of the properties and business of the Applicant.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Commission:

1. The Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for authority to issue up to 750,000 additional shares of Common Stock, par value $10, as proposed in the petition, is hereby approved and authority is granted.

2. Neither the issuance of securities by Applicant pursuant to the provisions of this order, nor any other act or deed done or performed in connection therewith, shall be construed to obligate the State of Montana to pay or guarantee in any manner whatsoever any security authorized, issued, assumed or guaranteed hereunder.

3. The approval of this Common Stock issuance shall not be construed as precedent to prejudice any future action of this Commission with regard to any security issue.

4. Issuance of this Order does not constitute acceptance of the Applicant's exhibits or other material accompanying the application for any purpose other than the issuance of this Order.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 18 day of July, 1983, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

Thomas J. Schneider, Chairman

Clyde Jarvis, Commissioner

Danny Oberg, Commissioner

John Driscoll, Commissioner

Howard Ellis, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Madeline L. Cottrill
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 28.2.4806, ARM.