READING FILE.

Service Date: May 1, 1985

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

* * * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application of BLACK HILLS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY for Authority to Increase their Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider.	UTILITY DIVISION DOCKET NO. 85.4.10 DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5135

On April 3, 1985, Black Hills Power and Light Company (BHPL or Applicant) filed a petition with the Montana Public Service Commission pursuant to Sections 69-3-101 et seq., MCA, for an order authorizing the Applicant to increase its electric rates in order to reflect the increased cost of fuel used in the generation of electricity. The fuel costs concerned are for the months of December 1984, January and February 1985.

On April 16, 1985, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing. A provision in that notice stated "If, however, no hearing is requested by April 26, 1985, the Commission will consider the matter and a default order may be issued."

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 and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. If increased fuel costs for the months of December 1984, January and February 1985, are to be recovered, a charge of $.00138 must be added to the base fuel cost of $.01240 approved in Docket No. 83.4.25 which results in a total fuel charge of $.01378 per KWH.

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 Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider for the billing period of May, June and July 1985 is $.00138 per KWH. This charge shall be added to the base fuel cost approved in Docket No. 83.4.25.

2. The approved rates shall be effective for electric service rendered on and after May 1, 1985.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana on April 29, 1985, by a 3 - 0 vote.

DOCKET NO. 85.4.10, DEFAULT ORDER NO. 5135

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Clyde Jarvis, Chairman

Howard L. Ellis, Commissioner

Danny Oberg, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Trenna Scoffield
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 ARM 38.2.4806.