

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY COMMISSION) PIPELINE SAFETY STAFF FOR APPROVAL OF A) PENALTY FOR A PIPELINE SAFETY VIOLATION) BY MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., EAST) RIVER AREA)	ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT STIPULATION PS13-008
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In June and July of 2013, the South Dakota Pipeline Safety Staff conducted a scheduled inspection of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) facilities in the East River area. The inspection uncovered what Staff determined to be probable violations of 49 CFR 192.625 and 49 CFR 192.805(b). As a result of the violations, on August 9, 2013, Staff filed a complaint alleging violations and requesting Commission approval of a civil penalty against MDU pursuant to SDCL 49-34B-12. On December 23, 2013, the parties filed a Stipulation to Amend Complaint, which removed the alleged violation of 49 CFR 192.625, leaving only the violation of 49 CFR 192.805(b). On March 10, 2014, the parties filed a Settlement Stipulation and Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20, Chapter 49-34B, and ARSD 20:10:01:19. At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 18, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and approve the Settlement Stipulation.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted and the Settlement Stipulation is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of March, 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.
By: <u><i>Loy Lashley</i></u>
Date: <u>03.18.14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Ch. Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner