

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
COMMISSION PIPELINE SAFETY STAFF)	STIPULATION
FOR APPROVAL OF A PENALTY FOR A)	
PIPELINE SAFETY VIOLATION BY)	
HUMBOLDT MUNICIPAL GAS UTILITIES)	PS15-001

On August 13, 2015, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from the Pipeline Safety Staff (Staff) regarding a Complaint alleging violations discovered during a March 2015 inspection of Humboldt Municipal Gas Utilities (Humboldt). In the Complaint, Staff sought penalties for the violations.

On August 20, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the answer deadline of September 2, 2015, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

The deadline to answer the Complaint was September 2, 2015. Humboldt did not file an answer to the Complaint. On September 14, 2015, the Humboldt Town Board and the Humboldt Gas Board filed letters. This matter came before the Commission on September 15, 2015. The Commission deferred the docket at that time as no members of the Humboldt Gas Board were available to answer questions. This docket was discussed at the Ad Hoc Commission meeting on September 24, 2015. The Commission deferred action to allow Commission Staff and Humboldt to work together to develop a plan. On September 29, 2015, Humboldt filed a letter regarding its response to a gas line that had been struck. On October 5, 2015, Humboldt filed a letter in the docket detailing its plan for compliance. At its October 13, 2015, Commission meeting, the docket was again discussed and deferred to allow Humboldt and Commission Staff to develop a plan. On October 20, 2015, Staff filed a Stipulation and Agreement (Stipulation) detailing steps that Humboldt would take to maintain compliance. In return, Staff agreed to recommend the Commission hold the Complaint in abeyance, and that if the terms of the Stipulation were satisfied, Staff would request dismissal of the Complaint after one year.

On October 29, 2015, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission discussed the Stipulation. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL chapter 49-34B. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Stipulation, with the amendment that the Stipulation would be extended to two years and after two years of compliance, Staff will request dismissal of the Complaint. In addition, for the second year, the reporting requirement in paragraph 14 will change from monthly reports to biannual reports.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Stipulation is approved, subject to the amendments as set forth above. It is further

ORDERED, this docket shall be held in abeyance.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of November, 2015.

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 or by mail.

By: Polayne West

Date: 11-2-15

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner