



UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-7900

March 24, 2006

RECEIVED

MAR 27 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities
Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Avoided Cost Rates 95, 96 & 97
Docket No. EL04-020

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group Inc., herewith advises the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that the filing Montana-Dakota made in the above referenced Docket on June 1, 2004 is no longer applicable and hereby withdraws its filing and requests that the Docket be closed. The Company's request in Docket No. EL04-020, was to update the avoided cost rates applicable under the Occasional Power Purchase Non-Time Differentiated Rate 95, Short-Term Power Purchase Time Differentiated Rate 96 and Long-Term Power Purchase Time Differentiated Rate 97. At approximately the same time as Montana-Dakota's request under Docket No. EL04-020, the Commission opened Docket No. EL04-016 "In the Matter of the Filing By Superior Energy Renewable Energy LLC against Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Regarding the Java Wind Project".

Given similarities in issues under each Docket and the fact that there were no customers taking service under Montana-Dakota's Rates 95, 96 or 97 processing of the EL04-020 Docket was put on hold pending resolution of the matter in Docket No. EL04-016. The matter was ultimately dismissed by the Commission's Order Approving Settlement Agreement and Dismissing and Closing Docket issued on January 5, 2006.

Montana-Dakota is currently in its annual review process of avoided cost rates applicable under Rates 95, 96 and 97. Given the data underlying the changes

proposed in Docket No. EL04-020 is outdated, Montana-Dakota requests that the Docket be closed and updates will be filed, by June 1, 2006, in a new request to the Commission.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Ball
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

C: Dave Gerdes