

1MB

FILE NO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST
FOR A SURVEY ON UTILITIES YEAR
2000 READINESS

Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE	DESCRIPTION
8/26 98	Order Opening Bracket;
9/3 98	Weekly Salary
10/21 98	Order;
3/6 00	Order Opening Bracket;
3/6 00	Bracket Order

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR A) ORDER OPENING DOCKET
SURVEY ON UTILITIES' YEAR 2000)
READINESS) MS98-001

At its August 18, 1998, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the status of South Dakota utilities efforts towards mitigating the potential problems posed by the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem.

To initiate this procedure, the Commission is requesting Commission Staff to develop a Y2K readiness survey to be sent to all utility companies and other interested persons and entities. The results of the survey will be used to determine the utilities readiness regarding the potential problems posed by the Y2K computer problem. The survey shall be developed by Commission Staff and sent to the above referenced entities no later than August 28, 1998. The survey shall be returned to the Commission Staff no later than October 1, 1998. Following the filing of the survey results, the Commission will determine what action, if any, needs to be taken.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, and 49-34A-26. It is therefore

ORDERED that a Y2K readiness survey shall be developed by Commission Staff and sent to the above referenced entities no later than August 28, 1998. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Y2K readiness survey shall be returned to the Commission Staff no later than October 1, 1998.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of August, 1998.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Kyle Tracy

Date: August 28, 1998

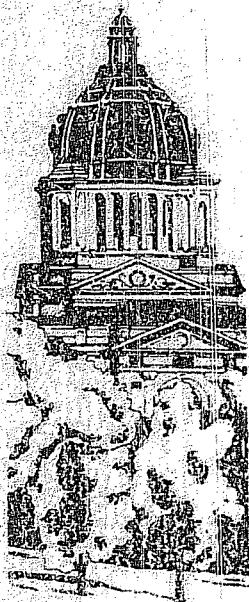
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

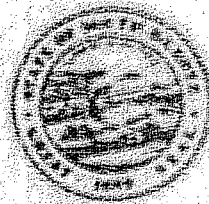
James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner



South Dakota Public Utilities Commission



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

August 27, 1998

To all South Dakota Utility Companies:

RE: A Y2K survey of all utilities in South Dakota by order of the Commission.

Dear Y2K coordinator:

The Commission has opened a docket to determine the preparedness of South Dakota utilities as we approach the new century. Serious concerns exist regarding whether computers, telephone networks, electric power grids, and all other computer-dependent devices may cause a failure or large delay in utility service as 1999 transitions into 2000. To help understand the scope of potential problem areas and the status of SD utilities, the Commission requests that you respond promptly to the enclosed survey. This survey will also allow the Commission to understand what course of action, if any, the Commission should take to assist in the resolution of Y2K problems in order to ensure minimal inconvenience to you and its utility consumers.

Capitol Office
Telephone (605) 773-3261
FAX (605) 773-3809

Transportation/
Warehouse Division
Telephone (605) 773-5280
FAX (605) 773-3225

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

TTY Through
Relay South Dakota
1-800-877-1113

Internet
billb@puc.state.sd.us

Jim Burg
Chairman
Pam Nelson
Vice-Chairman
Laska Schoenfelder
Commissioner

William Bullard Jr.
Executive Director

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Martin C. Bettmann
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Marlette Fischbach
Shirleen Fugitt
Lewis Hammond
Katie Hartford
Leni Healy
Camron Hoseck
Dave Jacobson
Bob Kradie
Delaine Kolbo
Jeffrey P. Lorensen
Terry Norum
Gregory A. Rislov
Taremi Stangohr
Steven M. Wegman
Rozayne Ailts Wiest

Please provide the Commission with your responses by October 1, 1998 via written response sent to:

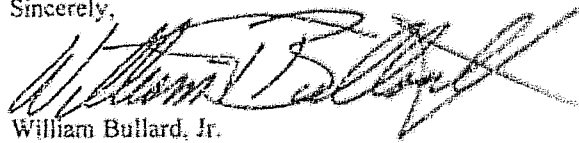
SD Public Utilities Commission
Martin Bettmann / Kylie Tracy
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Or electronic responses to: kylhet@puc.state.sd.us or martinb@puc.state.sd.us

The Commission believes it is important to address Y2K issues quickly and continuously to ensure utility consumers uninterrupted, quality service into and beyond the Year 2000. If warranted by your responses, the Commission may undertake further proceedings. Thank you for your prompt attention and responses to this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact Kylie Tracy or Martin Bettmann at (605) 773-3261.

Sincerely,


William Bullard, Jr.
Executive Director

encl

Year 2000 (Y2K) Readiness Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete the Commission's Y2K readiness survey.

Please complete pages 1-4 of the survey with as much precision as possible. Next complete pages 5 and 6 using percentages of system code lines, systems or components as described on those pages.

The following definitions will help you in completing this survey:

System portfolio -- The automated inventory of a company's information systems and their components grouped by business areas.

Code line -- A single computer program command, declaration, or instruction.

Analyzed -- Systems having been inventoried and checked for Y2K problems such as transition from 1999 to 2000, operation on 9/9/99, and recognition of leap year.

Remediated -- Systems that have Y2K problems which have been corrected.

Tested -- Following remediation, systems that have been checked to ensure Y2K problems have been eliminated.

Certified -- Systems shown to provide a smooth transition into the year 2000 and operation before and well into the new century without causing interruptions in or failure of critical systems.

Year 2000 (Y2K) Readiness Survey

Date: _____

Organization Name: _____

Type of Organization (such as municipality, rural coop., investor-owned): _____

Who has your company designated to be the Y2K coordinator or contact person? (Please include an address, phone number, fax number, and email address where this person can be reached.) _____

Is the coordinator conducting all Y2K investigations and remediation or has a task team been set up to assist the coordinator? _____

Please state the amount of time the above mentioned coordinator allocates to the Y2K project as well as the amount of time allocated by the team. _____

Awareness

Do you have a written plan for Y2K readiness?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ In process
- ☐ Unwritten
- ☐ No

If No, does your organization intend to prepare one?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

When? _____

If Yes, which of the following does the company's Y2K plan include?

- ☐ Schedules for all tasks and phases
- ☐ Master conversion and replacement schedule
- ☐ Assessment and selection of outsourcing options
- ☐ Assignment of conversion or replacement projects to project team
- ☐ Risk assessment

Does the Y2K plan consider the Y2K compliance of other entities with which you do business such as your supplier(s)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your company require that vendors and suppliers certify Y2K compliance?

☐ Yes ☐ No

What support, if any, is available from your existing equipment vendors? Have you utilized their help? _____

Have you informed your customers as to the nature of the Y2K problem and the actions your company is taking to correct service into the year 2000?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you intend to inform them?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How have or will you inform them? _____

Analysis

Has your company analyzed its system portfolio? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you identified the following for each system:

- ☐ Non-separable items (lack of source code or documentation)
- ☐ Continuation or replacement resources required for each platform, application, database management system, archive, utility, or interface.

Has your company performed its system conversion and replacement program?

The company's prioritization process includes:

- ☐ Ranking by business impact
- ☐ Ranking by anticipated failure date
- ☐ Identification of applications, databases, archives, and interfaces that cannot be converted because of resources and time constraints

Testing & Remediation – archiving, updating, replacing or converting

Is your company documenting all code and system modifications and using configuration management² to control changes?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Is your company communicating the changes to its information systems to all internal and external users?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Has your company performed unit, integration, and system tests on each converted or replaced component?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Has your company dealt with database and archive conversion?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Have Y2K test results been documented?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Certification of Y2K compliance³

How long will it take to complete the necessary analysis and remediation necessary to make all currently non-compliant systems Y2K certified?

☐

1 month

☐

6 months

☐

9 months

☐

Until December 1999

☐

Other

Contingency Plans⁴

Has your company updated or developed disaster recovery plans?

☐

Yes

☐

No

² Configuration management is the continuous control of changes made to a system's hardware, software, and documentation throughout the development and operational life of the system.

³ Y2K compliance means that the system will run before, during, and after the change of the century. In addition, it means that the system can correctly identify 2000 as a leap year.

⁴ In reference to the Y2K planning, a contingency plan should outline the steps to be taken by your company to ensure the continuity of its core business processes and to minimize interruptions in service in the event that your Y2K efforts are not completed in time or are not completely successful.

Do these plans take into consideration that basic services such as electricity, telecommunications, or transportation may be down?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Resources

Do you have the resources necessary to address the Y2K problem?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, what resources are you lacking?

Overview

Please identify the following:

Percentage of systems inventoried and assessed for the Y2K problem

Number of system components affected by the Y2K problem

Percentage of those components that have been remediated

Percentage of those components that have been tested

Percentage of those components that have been Y2K certified

Number of lines of source code affected by the Y2K problem

Percentage of those lines of source code that have been remediated

Percentage of those lines of source code that have been tested

Percentage of those lines of source code that have been Y2K certified

Business Information System Readiness

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready.
The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified

Are the following Business Systems Y2K Ready?

- Customer information systems
- Call center systems
- Financial and cost management systems
- Plant maintenance systems
- Distributed work management
- Fixed asset systems
- Security systems (i.e. System and facility access)
- Facility Operating Systems (i.e. HVAC, lighting controls)

100% Complete
N/A) A) R) C)

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report areas 100% complete in those areas and 100% certified)

What percentage of the systems listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

1Q98 4Q98 1Q99

2Q99 1Q00 4Q99

What percentage of the supporting infrastructure (i.e. Data center, CPUs, systems software LAN/WAN) for the business systems listed above do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

1Q98 4Q98 1Q99

2Q99 1Q00 4Q99

Telecommunications Systems Readiness

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready.

The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified. In the first column labeled test, please identify which type of testing you are performing or have performed as follows:

CT - component test, S - simulation, OT - outside testing, VV - vendor verification, X - Other. If other please list below what types of other testing were used.

Are the following mission-critical facilities* Y2K Ready?

TEST	% Complete			
	N/A)	A)	R)	C)
Telephone switches and key systems				
Microwave systems				
Mobile radio systems				
SCADA radio				
Data WAN/LANs including networking equipment				
Modems				
Network equipment				
Fiber systems				
Leased lines				
Power line carrier systems				
Satellite systems				
Telecommunications management systems				

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report area as 100% complete in those areas and 100% certified)

If other types of testing were used during your system analysis, please identify them. _____

What percentage of the mission-critical facilities listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

3098	4098	1099
2099	3099	4099

* Mission-critical means that misoperation of the referenced device or software could directly contribute to the complete loss of servicing ability or cause a lengthy interruption in services provided.

Readiness of Substation Controls, System Protection and Distribution

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready.

The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified. In the first column labeled test, please identify which type of testing you are performing or have performed as follows:

CT - component test, S - simulation, OT - outside testing, VV - vendor verification, X - Other. If other please list below what types of other testing were used.

Are the following mission-critical facilities Y2K Ready?

[illegible]

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report area as 100% complete in these areas and 100% certified.)

If other types of testing were used during your system analysis, please identify them:

What percentage of the mission-critical facilities listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

The image shows a blank ledger page. At the top, there is a header section with three columns: '日期' (Date), '摘要' (Summary), and '金额' (Amount). Below the header is a large table area with multiple rows and columns. The columns are labeled '日期', '摘要', and '金额'. The table is currently empty, with only the header row containing text. The page is numbered '1' in the bottom right corner.

* Mission-critical means that misoperation of the referenced device or software could directly contribute to the complete loss of servicing ability or cause a lengthy interruption in services provided.

Readiness of Generation Facilities

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready. The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified. In the first column labeled test, please identify which type of testing you are performing or have performed as follows: CT - component test, S - simulation, OT - outside testing, VV - vendor verification, X - Other. If other please list below what types of other testing were used.

Are the following mission-critical facilities* Y2K Ready?

Fuel supply and handling systems
Boiler control and feed systems
Reactor control systems
Safe shutdown systems
Balance of plant water and steam systems
Water treatment systems
Environmental systems (including ash, waste, emission, controls)
Electrical systems, power supplies, switchyard under plant control
Data acquisition and communications systems
Voice communications systems
Unit and station protection systems/relays

TEST % Complete
N/A) A) R) C)

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report area as 100% complete in those areas and 100% certified)

If other types of testing were used during your system analysis, please identify them. _____

What percentage of the mission-critical facilities listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

3098 4098 1099

2099 3099 4099

* Mission-critical means that misoperation of the referenced device or software could directly contribute to the complete loss of generating ability or cause a lengthy interruption in services provided.

Natural Gas Utility Readiness Survey

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready. The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified. In the first column labeled test, please identify which type of testing you are performing or have performed as follows: CT - component test, S - simulation, OT - outside testing, VV - vendor verification, X - Other. If other please list below what types of other testing were used.

Are the following mission-critical facilities* Y2K Ready?

Control center computer systems
 Production, processing, manufacturing systems
 Loading, transportation, and distribution systems
 Voice and data communications systems
 Safety shutdown and security systems
 Environmental monitoring and control systems
 Metering equipment systems
 Backup control center

TEST	% Complete			
	N/A)	A)	R)	C)

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report area as 100% complete in those areas and 100% certified)

If other types of testing were used during your system analysis, please identify them: _____

What percentage of the mission-critical facilities listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

3Q98	4Q98	1Q99

* Mission-critical means that misoperation of the referenced device or software could directly contribute to the complete loss of servicing ability or cause a lengthy interruption in services provided.

Energy Management Systems Readiness

Please complete the following using the percent of lines, systems or components that are Y2K ready. The survey conventions are: N/A) Not applicable, A) Analyzed, R) Remediated, C) Certified. In the first column labeled test, please identify which type of testing you are performing or have performed as follows: CT - component test, S - simulation, OT - outside testing, VV - vendor verification, X - Other. If other please list below what types of other testing were used.

Are the following mission-critical facilities Y2K Ready?

- Control center computer systems
- Data acquisition subsystems
- UPS systems
- Voice and data communications systems
- Remote terminal units (RTUs)
- Metering equipment systems
- Backup control center

100% Complete
TEST N/A A R C

(If no remediation and testing is necessary, report area as 100% complete in those areas and 100% certified)

If other types of testing were used during your system analysis, please identify them.

What percentage of the mission-critical facilities listed in the above question do you expect to be Y2K ready by the end of:

1998	1999	2000

* Mission-critical means that misoperation of the referenced device or software could directly contribute to the complete loss of servicing ability or cause a lengthy interruption in services provided.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

WEEKLY FILINGS

For the Period of August 27, 1998 through September 3, 1998

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705. Fax: 605-773-3809.

MISCELLANEOUS

MS98-001 In the Matter of the Request for a Survey on Utilities' Year 2000 Readiness

The Commission voted to open this docket to determine the status of South Dakota utilities' efforts towards mitigating the potential problems posed by the Year 2000 computer problem. A survey was sent to all utility companies and other interested persons and entities on August 28, 1998. Responses to the survey are due no later than October 1, 1998.

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Staff Analyst: Martin Bettmann
Order Opening Docket was signed on 8/25/98
Responses Due: Not later than 10/01/98

NATURAL GAS

NG98-007 In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Petition for Extension of Test Period

On August 27, 1998, the Commission received a Petition for Extension of Test Period from MidAmerican Energy Company (Mid American) as it relates to its natural gas service in South Dakota. ARSD 20:10:13:44 requires the use of a test period consisting of 12 months of actual experience ending no earlier than 6 months before the date of filing unless good cause for extension is shown. MidAmerican is contemplating filing a natural gas rate case in November 1998 and respectfully requests the Commission to authorize the use of a calendar year 1997 test period for its possible general rate increase in natural gas rates.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Staff Analyst: Bob Knadle
Date Filed: 08/27/98
Intervention Deadline: N/A

NG98-008 In the Matter of the Filing by Northwestern Public Service Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions

Application by Northwestern Public Service Company to update the fuel retention percentage pursuant to its Gas Transportation Tariff General Terms and Conditions. Northwestern Public Service company proposes to update the Gas Transportation fuel retention percentage effective October 1, 1998 based on the actual percentage incurred for the 12 month period ended July 1, 1998.

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Date Filed: 09/01/98
Intervention Deadline: N/A

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC98-147 In the Matter of the Application of FIBERCOMM, L.C. for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota

Application by FIBERCOMM, L.C. for a Certificate of Authority to provide local exchange service, intrastate and interstate long distance interexchange telecommunications services in the state of South Dakota. FIBERCOMM, L.C. proposes to provide Internet access, resold wireless services, and other enhanced services within U S WEST exchanges in the state of South Dakota.

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck
Staff Intern Analyst: Kylie Tracy
Date Filed: 08/27/98
Intervention Deadline: 09/18/98

TC98-148 In the Matter of the Application of Sioux Falls Cable Television for a Certificate of Authority to Provide Telecommunications Services in South Dakota

Application by Sioux Falls Cable Television for a Certificate of Authority to provide intrastate intraexchange telecommunications services in the state of South Dakota. Sioux Falls Cable Television proposes to initially offer voice messaging and data transmission services and thereafter an increasing variety of telecommunications services on a intraexchange basis only. Initially in Sioux Falls, Crooks, Renner and Mitchell

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Date filed: 08/27/98
Intervention Deadline: 09/18/98

TC98-149 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Lown House Restaurant, Spearfish, South Dakota, against AT&T Communications of the Midwest, Inc., regarding Consumer Service Issues

Complaint by Lown House Restaurant vs AT&T. Complainant raises a variety of issues regarding service from AT&T. The complainant requests the following relief: "Reimburse the Lown House Restaurant and B&B for realistic business losses in the \$8,000 to \$9,000 range for which I am requesting payment from AT&T and FIRSTEL Communications."

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Staff Analyst: Lorn Healy
Date Filed: 08/27/98
Intervention Deadline: NA

TC98-150

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Valley Telephone Company and Park Region Mutual Telephone Company Regarding the Sale of Valley Telephone Company Stock to Park Region Mutual Telephone Company

Park Region Mutual Telephone Company proposes to purchase and Valley Telephone Company proposes to sell the stock of Valley Telephone Company in this joint application. Valley Telephone Company currently serves approximately 182 access lines in West Browns Valley, South Dakota as well as approximately 636 access lines in Browns Valley, Minnesota. Park Region Mutual Telephone Company is an independent telephone company serving six exchanges with approximately 4,100 access lines in Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson

Date Filed: 09/03/98

Intervention Deadline: 09/10/98

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You may subscribe to the PUC mailing list at <http://www.state.sd.us/state/executive/puc/e-mail.htm>

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR A)
SURVEY ON UTILITIES' YEAR 2000)
READINESS)

ORDER

MS98-001

At its August 18, 1998, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the status of South Dakota utilities efforts towards mitigating the potential problems posed by the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The Commission ordered Commission Staff to develop a Y2K readiness survey to be sent to all utility companies and other interested persons and entities. The survey was developed by Commission Staff and sent to the above referenced entities on August 28, 1998. It was ordered that the survey be returned to the Commission Staff no later than October 1, 1998. The results of the survey were used to determine the utilities' readiness regarding the potential problems posed by the Y2K computer problem.

On October 15, 1998, at its regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff presented its findings, based upon the responses of the utilities that returned the survey to the Commission. Commission Staff recommended the following:

1. That Commission Staff follow up on responses not yet received from the local cooperatives, independents, municipals and competitive local exchange companies. The outstanding responses must be returned by November 1, 1998.
2. In March 1999, a follow-up survey be administered to examine the current stage of the process each utility is then in. Commission Staff expects that all remediation efforts should be complete.
3. In July 1999, utilities will be required to report their current process stage once again. Commission Staff expects that testing of all remediated parts will be complete by July 1999. Contingency plans will also be in place by July 1999.
4. As problems relating to the Y2K bug are expected to appear as early as the 99th day of the 99th year which will occur on April 9, 1999, and also on September 9, 1999 (09-09-99), Commission Staff recommends that utilities should be Y2K compliant before the September 9 date.
5. Commission Staff further recommends that all the utilities inform their customers of Y2K issues and the utilities' contingency plan should problems arise on January 1, 2000.

6. All utilities document all test results and remediation efforts throughout the preparation process.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, and 49-34A-26. Having heard the recommendations of Commission Staff and the Bureau of Information, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the recommendations of Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED that

1. Commission Staff follow up on responses not yet received from the local cooperatives, independents, municipals and competitive local exchange companies. The outstanding responses must be returned by November 1, 1999.
2. In March 1999, a follow-up survey be administered to examine the current stage of the process each utility is then in. All remediation efforts should be complete.
3. In July 1999, utilities will be required to report what stage of the process the utility is at. All remediated parts will be complete by July 1999. Contingency plans will also be in place by July 1999.
4. All the utilities shall inform their customers of Y2K issues and the utilities' contingency plan should problems arise on January 1, 2000.
5. All utilities shall document all test results and remediation efforts throughout the preparation process.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of October, 1998.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>[Signature]</u>
Date:	<u>10/21/98</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

[Signature]
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

[Signature]
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

[Signature]
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR A)	ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
SURVEY ON UTILITIES' YEAR 2000)	
READINESS)	MS98-001

At its August 18, 1998, regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) voted to open a docket concerning the status of South Dakota utilities efforts towards mitigating the potential problems posed by the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem. The Commission ordered Commission Staff to develop a Y2K readiness survey to be sent to all utility companies and other interested persons and entities. The survey was developed by Commission Staff and sent to the above referenced entities on August 28, 1998. It was ordered that the survey be returned to the Commission Staff no later than October 1, 1998. The results of the survey were used to determine the utilities' readiness regarding the potential problems posed by the Y2K computer problem.

On October 15, 1998, at its regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff presented its findings, based upon the responses of the utilities that returned the survey, to the Commission. Commission Staff recommended the following:

1. That Commission Staff follow up on responses not yet received from the local cooperatives, independents, municipals and competitive local exchange companies. The outstanding responses must be returned by November 1, 1998.
2. In March 1999, a follow-up survey be administered to examine the current stage of the process each utility is thru in. Commission Staff expects that all remediation efforts should be complete.
3. In July 1999, utilities will be required to report their current process stage once again. Commission Staff expects that testing of all remediated parts will be complete by July 1999. Contingency plans will also be in place by July 1999.
4. As problems relating to the Y2K bug are expected to appear as early as the 99th day of the 99th year which will occur on April 9, 1999, and also on September 9, 1999 (09-09-99), Commission Staff recommends that utilities should be Y2K compliant before the September 9 date.
5. Commission Staff further recommends that all the utilities inform their customers of Y2K issues and the utilities' contingency plan should problems arise on January 1, 2000.

6. All utilities document all test results and remediation efforts throughout the preparation process.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-31-7, 49-31-7.1, and 49-34A-26. On October 15, 1998, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to accept Staff's recommendations.

On January 18, 2000, at a regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff gave an update of the utilities' efforts in mitigating potential Y2K problems. Commission Staff reported that no problems were reported regarding Y2K problems. The Commission unanimously voted to close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the docket is closed

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of March, 2000

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Alfred Kach

Date: 3/8/00

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Liska Schenfelder
LISKA SCHENFELDER, Commissioner