

NG01-008



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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAX Received JUL 20 2001

July 20, 2001

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Fax #605-773-3809

Ms. Debra Elofson
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

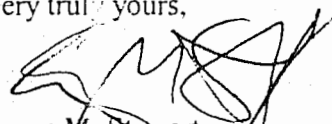
Re: MidAmerican Energy Company
Docket No. NG01-_____

Dear Ms. Elofson:

Enclosed please find the original and eleven copies of the Petition of MidAmerican Energy Company for Extension of Test Period for filing. Please file stamp the extra copy and return it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Very truly yours,



Suzan M. Stewart
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Enclosures

NG01-008

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JUL 20 2001

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MidAmerican Energy Company)
Petition for Extension of Test Period)

Docket No. NG01-_____

FAX Received JUL 20 2001

**PETITION OF MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY
FOR EXTENSION OF TEST PERIOD**

COMES NOW, MidAmerican Energy Company ("MidAmerican"), and for its
Petition to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") for Extension
of Test Period, submits as follows:

1. MidAmerican has experienced increases in its costs of providing natural
gas distribution service to its South Dakota customers. To some extent, these cost
increases have resulted from the costs of construction of significant new gas facilities to
support the robust economy of southeastern South Dakota. Based on increases in the
costs of providing natural gas distribution service to its customers in South Dakota,
MidAmerican has determined that it is necessary to file a request for a general increase in
its rates. At this time, MidAmerican's best estimate is that its filing will occur on or
before November 1, 2001. MidAmerican proposes to use a calendar year 2000 test
period as the basis of the rates proposed in the filing. Filing later in 2001, after the 2001
construction season is largely concluded, will provide the most current actual data
regarding the costs associated with new facilities placed into service during 2001.

2. Commission regulation 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 respectfully
requests the Commission to authorize the use of a calendar 2000 test period in this filing.

MidAmerican believes that the calendar 2000 test period, in conjunction with appropriate pro forma adjustments, is reflective of its current costs and provides for an accurate review of its financial results.

3. MidAmerican believes that good cause exists for the Commission to grant the extension. The costs of providing gas distribution service have not changed dramatically during calendar 2001 to date. In addition, use of a calendar test period will simplify the filing efforts for MidAmerican, will assist the Commission Staff in verifying MidAmerican's financial status and will cause the basis of rates charged to South Dakota customers to reflect proper levels of costs for the following reasons:

(a) MidAmerican maintains its books and records on a calendar year basis;

(b) Verification of MidAmerican financial data will be more accurate and less time-consuming if calendar year data is used because publicly filed annual reports reflect calendar year results. Annual reports to the SEC, FERC and state regulatory authorities are on this basis. Staff and other possible parties to this rate proceeding will be most easily able to audit and verify MidAmerican's book results from analysis of these publicly filed reports. Also, the calendar year basis should make verification of pro forma adjustments easier;

(c) Pro forma adjustments will not be affected by use of a calendar year test period because of nominal inflation;

(d) Use of a non-calendar year test period would likely increase MidAmerican's rate case preparation expense by such costs as a non-calendar year audit; and

(c) Filing after the construction season will permit MidAmerican to recover its costs of new facilities to serve growing southeastern South Dakota.

WHEREFORE, MidAmerican Energy Company respectfully requests the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to authorize the use of a calendar 2000 test period for its general rate increase in natural gas rates to be filed later in 2001.

DATED this 20th day of July, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY

BY: 

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South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
WEEKLY FILINGS
For the Period of July 19, 2001 through July 25, 2001

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

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT01-033 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Thomas C. Harbeson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota,
against Direct One Com.Long Distance Regarding Unauthorized Billing for Services.

Complainant states that his Credit Card was charged by Direct One Com.Long Distance for unauthorized billing. Complainant believes that his credit card was fraudulently accessed by Direct One Com.Long Distance after he purchased a video that was offered on television. Complainant requests that he be compensated for his time in resolving this matter and that he be awarded \$1,000.00 as stated by South Dakota law. He also would like the Commission to assess a penalty on Direct One Com.Long Distance for its actions and because Direct One Com.Long Distance does not have a Certificate of Authority from the SD Public Utilities Commission.

Staff Analyst: Mary Healy
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Filed: 7/19/01
Intervention Deadline: N/A

NATURAL GAS

NG01-007 In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval to Prorate
Monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment Rates.

Application by MidAmerican Energy to prorate monthly purchased gas adjustments by applying each month's purchased gas adjustment to service used during its effective date. Currently a single purchased gas adjustment is applied to the entire monthly billed usage of a customer. MidAmerican requested that the change be effective for August 2001 billings. The Commission approved the requested change at its regular meeting held July 24, 2001.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 07/19/01
Date Decided: 07/24/01

NG01-008 In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Petition for
Extension of Test Period.

Application by MidAmerican Energy to utilize a test period for determining rates which ends more than six months prior to the date the rate case is expected to be filed. South Dakota Administrative Rule 20:10:13.44 requires the use of a test period consisting of 12 months of actual experience ending no earlier than six months before the date of filing for a rate change unless good cause for extension is shown. MidAmerican states the extension will allow them to reflect actual costs incurred during the 2001 construction season.

Staff Analyst: Dave Jacobson
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Filed: 07/20/01
Intervention Deadline: 08/15/01

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TC01-094 *In the Matter of the Filing for Approval of an Agreement for Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunication Services between Qwest Corporation and Ciera Network Systems, Inc.*

On July 19, 2001, the Commission received a Filing for approval of an Agreement for Terms and Conditions for Interconnection, Unbundled Network Elements, Ancillary Services and Resale of Telecommunication Services between Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and Ciera Network Systems, Inc. (Ciera). According to the parties the Agreement is a negotiated agreement which sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Qwest will provide services for resale to Ciera for the provision of local exchange services. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than August 8, 2001. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 07/19/01
Initial Comments Due: 08/08/01

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR)	EXTENSION OF TEST
APPROVAL OF PETITION FOR EXTENSION)	PERIOD
OF TEST PERIOD)	NG01-008

On July 20, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition of MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) for Extension of Test Period 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 on or before November 1, 2001, and has petitioned the Commission to authorize the use of a calendar year 2000 test period as a basis for establishing its natural gas cost of service.

At its regularly scheduled August 16, 2001, meeting, the Commission considered MidAmerican's Petition. MidAmerican presented its arguments in favor of granting the Petition to the Commission. The Commission found that good cause exists for extension of the test period, as requested, for a natural gas rate case filing made by MidAmerican by November 1, 2001. The Commission voted to grant the Petition.

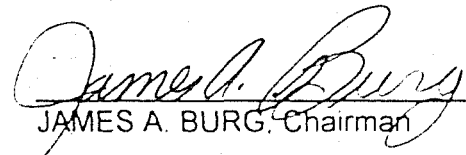
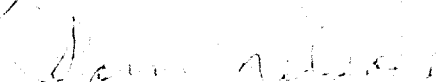
The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13:44. It is hereby

ORDERED, that MidAmerican is granted a waiver of ARSD 20:10:13:44 and shall be allowed to use a 2000 test year for its natural gas rate case provided the filing is made by November 1, 2001.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of August, 2001.

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><i>William Karbo</i></u>
Date: <u><i>8/23/01</i></u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

 _____ JAMES A. BURG, Chairman
 _____ PAM NELSON, Commissioner