

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION</b>	)	<b>ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE;</b>
<b>OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.,</b>	)	<b>ORDER SUSPENDING</b>
<b>A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES</b>	)	<b>OPERATION OF PROPOSED</b>
<b>GROUP, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO</b>	)	<b>RATES; ORDER AUTHORIZING</b>
<b>INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS RATES</b>	)	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO</b>
	)	<b>ENTER INTO CONSULTING</b>
	)	<b>CONTRACTS</b>
	)	
	)	<b>NG23-014</b>

On August 15, 2023, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU or Company) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$7.4 million annually or approximately 11.2% based on MDU's test year ending December 31, 2022. The Company states a typical residential natural gas customer using 66.3 dk on an annual basis would see an increase of \$8.70 per month or 15.9%. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 64,600 natural gas customers in MDU's South Dakota service territory.

On August 17, 2023, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing with an intervention date of October 13, 2023, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments had been filed.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to \$500,000 in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates as part of a general rate case. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 29, 2023, the Commission considered this matter. In accordance with Commission Staff's request, the Commission voted unanimously to assess MDU a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for expenses related to the general rate case and to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MDU pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14 for 180 days after the Application filing date of August 15, 2023. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MDU shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission. It is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after August 15, 2023, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary

consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

**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: Adam deHueck

Date: 9/1/23

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chi Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner