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**SOUTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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February 10, 2012

Patricia Van Gerpen  
SD PUC Executive Director  
500 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: New Docket – Pipeline Incident

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen,

A natural gas incident occurred on the Montana Dakota Utilities system early morning on February 10, 2012. Staff requests the Commission open an "Inspector Incident Investigation" docket pursuant to ARSD 20:10:37:11.

Specifically, the incident occurred in Spearfish, SD when a flatbed trailer traveling on interstate I-90 detached and hit and damaged a gas meter set at the Spearfish Walmart. The incident did not result in injuries, fire or an explosion despite the release of natural gas. Estimated damages are over \$50,000. Upon notification of the incident, a PUC pipeline safety inspector traveled to the site to investigate.

Commission Pipeline Safety Staff will keep the Commission apprised of its findings.

Sincerely,

Kara Semmler  
PUC Staff Attorney