

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A) DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.) FOR MODIFICATION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE) AREA)	ORDER FOR APPROVAL OF) TRANSFER OF ASSIGNED) ELECTRIC SERVICE) TERRITORIES) EL97-018)
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On October 6, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) requesting approval of an exchange of electric service territory. According to the filing, Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Cam Wal) and MDU have agreed to exchange certain service territories in Selby and Mobridge, South Dakota; a copy of the agreement was made part of the filing.

Cam Wal is willing to accept and MDU is willing to relinquish the following service territory in Selby, South Dakota:

Lot 2, Block 1, Plainview First Addition to the City of Selby, Walworth County, South Dakota.

In exchange for the above, MDU is willing to accept and Cam Wal is willing to relinquish the following service territory near Mobridge, South Dakota:

Replat of Tract 3 in the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 124 North, Range 79 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Walworth County, South Dakota.

On December 18, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request. Commission Staff recommended granting approval of the exchange of electric service territories.

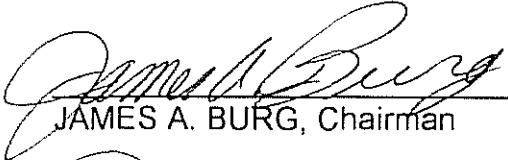
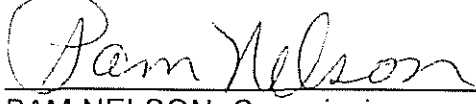
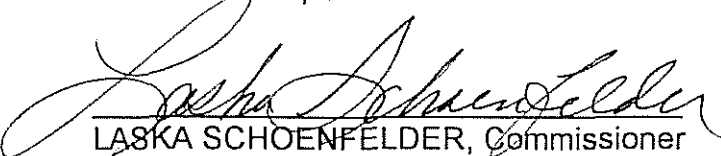
The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that this agreement will promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of the contracting electric utilities. The Commission therefore concludes that the agreement for exchange of electric service territories is in the public interest and that it shall be approved. It is therefore

ORDERED that the request for approval of the assignment of electric service territories as described herein is hereby granted and is effective for service rendered on and after the date of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of January, 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><i>Alta Marie Kaebo</i></u>
Date: <u>1/9/98</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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