

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO
THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF
CONDUCT FOR LDC'S, THEIR AGENCY BUSINESS
AND AFFILIATED MARKETING ENTITIES**

) **ORDER ESTABLISHING
) PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
) AND REQUESTING
) COMMENTS
) NG96-011**

On March 29, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from PAM Natural Gas (PNG) requesting that the Commission promulgate rules establishing standards of conduct for local distribution companies (LDCs), their agency business and affiliated marketing entities. PNG asserted in its petition that standards of conduct are necessary to ensure the emergence of competitive alternatives to natural gas end-users. PNG further asserted that its proposed rules incorporated the type of safeguards established in FERC Order 497.

At its regularly scheduled April 23, 1996, meeting, the Commission reviewed PNG's filing and voted to deny the Petition and to open an investigative docket into the matter of establishing standards of conduct for LDCs, their agency business and marketing affiliates.

At this time, the Commission would like to solicit comments on establishing standards of conduct for LDCs, their agency business and marketing affiliates in the form of Administrative Rules. Comments are requested to address the following questions:

1. Should the Commission consider adopting rules to establish standards of conduct for LDCs, their agency business and affiliated marketing entities?
2. If the Commission were to decide to adopt such rules, what rules would each respondent to this notice propose to be adopted?

As set forth in the Order Denying Petition and Order Opening Docket (NG96-007), the Commission has directed the Executive Director to establish a procedural schedule in this matter. The Executive Director has therefore established that comments regarding the above questions will be accepted no later than 30 days after the date of this order. As the Commission's decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that comments regarding the above questions will be accepted no later than 30 days from the date of this Order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of May, 1996.

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 Kalbs</i></u>
Date:	<u>5/30/96</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kenneth Stofferahn
KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner