

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED)	ORDER FINDING NO
BY GOLDIE BURNHAM, FORT PIERRE, SD,)	PROBABLE CAUSE,
AGAINST MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES)	DISMISSING COMPLAINT
REGARDING A GAS LEAK)	AND CLOSING DOCKET
)	NG97-008

On May 29, 1997, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Complaint filed by Goldie Burnham (Complainant) of Fort Pierre, SD, against Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) regarding a gas leak. The two issues presented in the complaint were the bill and the safety and well-being of the clients of MDU. Complainant states that after the leak at her rental home was discovered, it was admitted by MDU that the pipes were incorrectly fit together. Due to the leak, Complainant received an unusually large bill totaling \$1,049.09. On June 9, 1997, the monetary portion of the matter was resolved between the parties. However, the safety issue was still a concern to the Complainant. Complainant states that the smell of gas had been reported on separate occasions by more than one resident living in Complainant's neighborhood, but all were told that it was because too much odor had been added to the gas.

On June 24, 1997, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission reviewed the Complaint as well as the comments of Complainant and MDU. Staff recommended that the Commission find no probable cause and close the docket. However, Staff also recommended that the Commission open a new docket for the purposes of investigating MDU's safety procedures.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A.

The Commission voted to open a new docket to investigate MDU's safety procedures. The Commission then voted to find no probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission on the part of Montana-Dakota Utilities and to dismiss the Complaint and close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED that the Complaint is dismissed and docket NG97-008 is hereby closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of July, 1997.

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: _____


Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


JAMES A. BURG, Chairman


PAM NELSON, Commissioner


LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner