

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
<b>MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. FOR )</b>	<b>WAIVERS</b>
<b>APPROVAL OF WAIVER OF ITS PURCHASED )</b>	
<b>GAS ADJUSTMENT TARIFF )</b>	<b>NG03-002</b>

On February 11, 2003, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) for approval of a waiver of terms of its tariffed purchased gas adjustment. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. proposes to implement an out-of-cycle surcharge adjustment which will zero out the surcharge adjustment for the months of March and April 2003. Currently the amount to be amortized through the surcharge adjustment is approaching zero and MDU's proposal would minimize future amortization amounts. The regular surcharge adjustment would be effective May 1, 2003. On February 12, 2003, MDU filed a request for waiver of ARSD 20:10:13:15, 20:10:13:17, and 20:10:13:18 to effectuate the out-of-cycle surcharge adjustment requested, on less than 30 days notice, with the purchased gas cost adjustment to be effective March 1, 2003.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2003, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the waivers.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. The Commission further finds that the filing is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the above mentioned waiver of the rules and the proposed waiver of terms of tariffed purchased gas adjustment is approved and is effective for service rendered on and after March 1, 2003.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Melaine Kalbo</i></u>
Date: <u>3/10/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Robert K. Sahr*

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

*Gary Hanson*

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

*James A. Burg*  
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner