

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	<b>ORDER OF ASSESSMENT</b>
<b>MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR )</b>	<b>OF FILING FEE AND</b>
<b>AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR )</b>	<b>SUSPENSION OF</b>
<b>NATURAL GAS SERVICE )</b>	<b>IMPOSITION OF TARIFF</b>
<b>)</b>	<b>NG04-001</b>

On April 2, 2004, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service in its service territory by \$1,559,963 or approximately 1.5% of pro forma test year revenue. MidAmerican states the proposed increase for an average residential customer would be approximately \$2.50 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 73,100 customers in MidAmerican Energy Company's service territory in southeastern South Dakota.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its ad hoc meeting of April 26, 2004, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, MidAmerican shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. Further, an intervention deadline of May 14, 2004, has been established. Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MidAmerican for 90 days beyond May 2, 2004. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MidAmerican shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the executive director, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the executive director, not to exceed the statutory limit; and it is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 90 days beyond May 2, 2004, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004.

<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>Delaine Kalbo</u>
Date: <u>5/5/04</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