

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER EXTENDING
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. FOR)	SUSPENSION OF
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR)	IMPOSITION OF TARIFF
NATURAL GAS SERVICE)	NG05-002

On March 24, 2005, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase natural gas rates in its East River Natural Gas System service territory. The application seeks an increase in rates in the amount of \$849,745 or approximately 12.8%. On April 12, 2005, the Commission suspended the proposed schedule of rates for 90 days beyond April 23, 2005. On July 12, 2005, Commission Staff recommended that the suspension of the tariff be further extended for 60 days beyond July 22, 2005.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-34A-2, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.1, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-16, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-20, 49-34A-21, 49-34A-22, and 49-34A-23.

At its July 12, 2005, meeting, the Commission considered this matter. MDU had no comment on Staff's recommendation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the extension sought by Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be further suspended for 60 days beyond July 22, 2005, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of July, 2005.

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>Helaine Kelbo</i></u>
Date: <u>7/14/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner