

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING JOINT
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. FOR)	MOTION FOR APPROVAL
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR)	OF SETTLEMENT
NATURAL GAS SERVICE)	STIPULATION
)	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%.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 12, 2005, the Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, MDU shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further established an intervention deadline of April 29, 2005. On April 12, 2005, the Commission suspended the proposed schedule of rates for 90 days beyond April 23, 2005. On July 12, 2005, the Commission extended the suspension of proposed schedule of rates for 60 days beyond July 22, 2005.

On August 23, 2005, the Commission received a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Settlement Stipulation signed by all of the parties and Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation. Staff requested that the Commission consider the Settlement Stipulation on August 31, 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.

On August 31, 2005, the Commission heard from MDU and Commission Staff concerning the proposed Settlement Stipulation. After listening to the presentations, the Commission voted to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation.

The revised tariff sheets proposed by MDU, effective for service rendered on and after September 1, 2005, are as follows:

Section No. 1

2nd Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1

2nd Revised Sheet No. 1.1, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1.1

Section No. 2

1st Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling Original Sheet No. 1

Section 3

2nd Revised Sheet No. 2, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 2

1st Revised Sheet No. 7, Canceling Original Sheet No. 7

Original Sheet No. 7.1

2nd Revised Sheet No. 11, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 11

1st Revised Sheet No. 12, Canceling Original Sheet No. 12

3rd Revised Sheet No. 13, Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 13

Original Sheet No. 17
Original Sheet No. 17.1
1st Revised Sheet No. 22, Canceling Original Sheet No. 22
2nd Revised Sheet No. 26, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 26
2nd Revised Sheet No. 28, Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 28
1st Revised Sheet No. 28.1, Canceling Original Sheet No. 28.1
1st Revised Sheet No. 29, Canceling Original Sheet No. 29
1st Revised Sheet No. 29.2, Canceling Original Sheet No. 29.2
1st Revised Sheet No. 29.4, Canceling Original Sheet No. 29.4
1st Revised Sheet No. 30, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30
1st Revised Sheet No. 30.1, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30.1
1st Revised Sheet No. 30.2, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30.2
1st Revised Sheet No. 30.3, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30.3
1st Revised Sheet No. 30.4, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30.4
1st Revised Sheet No. 30.5, Canceling Original Sheet No. 30.5

Section 4

3rd Revised Sheet No. 1, Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 1

Section 5

1st Revised Sheet No. 19, Canceling Original Sheet No. 19

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein; and it is further

ORDERED, that the aforementioned tariff sheets are approved for service rendered on and after September 1, 2005.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of September, 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>Melaine Kelbo</u>
Date:	<u>9/8/05</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 *dl*