

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.)
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
NATURAL GAS RATES)**

**ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION**

NG12-008

On December 21, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota service territory, consisting of the Black Hills and East River service areas, by approximately \$1.5 million based on MDU's test year ending June 30, 2012. MDU is also proposing to consolidate the Black Hills and East River areas into one rate jurisdiction. The Company states that a typical residential customer in the Black Hills area using 75 dk on an annual basis will see an average increase of approximately \$3.00 per month while a typical residential customer in the East River area using 61 dk on an annual basis will see an average decrease of approximately \$1.10 per month. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 47,600 customers in MDU's Black Hills service area and approximately 7,200 customers in MDU's East River service area.

On December 27, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 22, 2013, to interested persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, and ARSD 20:10:13, 20:10:01:15.02, 20:10:01:15.03, and 20:10:01:15.05. On January 18, 2013, the Commission issued an Order of Assessment of Filing Fee and Suspension of Imposition of Tariff. On February 19, 2013, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene of the Federal Executive Agencies (FEA).

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2013, the Commission considered FEA's Petition to Intervene. MDU did not object to FEA's intervention. The Commission found that FEA's Petition to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention and voted unanimously to grant intervention to FEA. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Petition to Intervene of FEA is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of March, 2013.

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, electronically.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>3.6.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
GARY HANSON, Chairman

[Signature]
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

[Signature]
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner