

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ) APPLICATION OF MIDAMERICAN ) ENERGY COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY ) TO INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS ) RATES ) ) )	ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT STIPULATION; ORDER APPROVING REFUND PLAN  <b>NG14-005</b>
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On August 4, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company (MEC) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for Authority to Increase Natural Gas Rates in South Dakota (Application). The Application sought approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in MEC's South Dakota service territory by approximately \$2.9 million annually or approximately 3.5% based on MEC's test year ending December 31, 2013. MEC stated that a typical residential natural gas customer would see an average monthly increase of \$1.00. The proposed rate increase would potentially affect approximately 88,000 customers in MEC's South Dakota service territory.

On August 7, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of October 24, 2014, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

On December 31, 2014, MEC filed a Notice of Intent to Implement Interim Natural Gas Rates effective for service on or after February 1, 2015. On June 3, 2015, a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Settlement Stipulation, and Staff Memorandum were filed. On June 5, 2015, MEC filed its proposed customer notices and Interim Refund Plan.

The revised tariff sheets proposed by MEC, effective for service rendered on and after July 1, 2015, cancel and replace the entirety of the tariff formerly designated as MidAmerican Energy Company South Dakota Gas Sales Tariff. The replacement tariff was filed as Exhibit 1 to the Settlement Stipulation. The revised tariff sheets are as follows:

South Dakota Gas Tariff Schedule No. 2

Original Title Sheet

- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 1, Original Sheet Nos. 1 – 9
- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 2, Original Sheet Nos. 1 – 4
- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 3, Original Sheet Nos. 1 – 91
- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 4, Original Sheet No. 1
- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 5, Original Sheet Nos. 1 – 85
- SD P.U.C. Sec. No. 6, Original Sheet Nos. 1 – 9

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically, 1-26-20, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.3, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-21, and 49-34A-22.

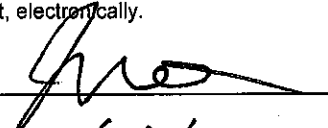
The Joint Motion and Interim Refund Plan were noticed for Commission consideration and action at an ad hoc Commission meeting on June 16, 2015. The Commission heard from MEC and the Commission's Staff concerning the Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and made further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion and approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission also considered the issue of approval of MEC's Interim Refund Plan. Finding that the Refund Plan as proposed by MEC properly balances the interests of MEC in having a workable plan that is not unduly administratively burdensome and the interests of customers in obtaining a prompt and substantially complete refund of non *de minimis* over-collections during the interim period and is therefore just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve MEC's Interim Refund Plan. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MEC's and Staff's Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted and the Settlement Stipulation is approved. 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. It is further

ORDERED, that MEC's Interim Refund Plan is approved as filed. It is further

ORDERED, that the tariff sheets set forth above are approved for service rendered on and after July 1, 2015.

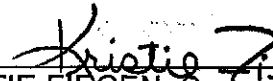
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

<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, electronically.	
By:	
Date:	<u>6/18/15</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

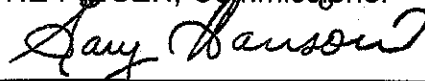
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner



GARY HANSON, Commissioner