

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )</b>	<b>ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE</b>
<b>OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., )</b>	<b>AND SUSPENDING OPERATION</b>
<b>A DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES )</b>	<b>OF PROPOSED RATES</b>
<b>GROUP, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO )</b>	
<b>INCREASE ITS NATURAL GAS RATES )</b>	<b>NG15-005</b>

On June 30, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$1.5 million annually or approximately 3.1% based on MDU's test year ending December 31, 2014. MDU states a typical residential natural gas customer using 72 dk on an annual basis would see an increase of \$2.21 per month or 4.64%. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 57,600 natural gas customers in MDU's South Dakota service territory.

On July 2, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 11, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments had been filed.

SDCL 49-34A-14 authorizes the Commission to suspend the operation of the proposed rates for 180 following the date on which the proposed rates were filed. SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates as part of a general rate case. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13.

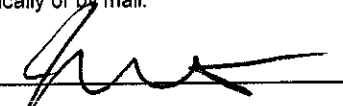
At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 21, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. In accordance with Staff's request, the Commission voted unanimously to assess MDU a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 for expenses related to the general rate case and to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MidAmerican pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14 for 180 days after the Application filing date of June 30, 2015.

It is therefore

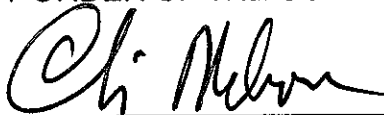
**ORDERED**, that MDU shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission. It is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after June 30, 2015, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

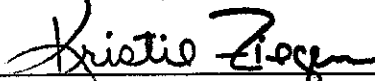
Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 22nd day of July, 2015.

<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 or by mail.	
By: _____	
Date: _____	<u>7/22/15</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

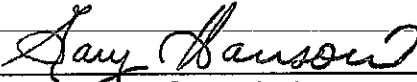
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner



GARY HANSON, Commissioner