

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS)
REGARDING FARM TAP SERVICE)**

**ORDER APPROVING
INSPECTION PLAN

NG17-011**

On July 24, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a letter from MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) requesting a docket be opened to consider a proposal that would allow MidAmerican to provide services to a number of farm tap customers connected to an interstate pipeline owned and operated by Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), as a result of discussions between MidAmerican and Commission Staff (Staff). The tariff revisions proposed by MidAmerican allow it to provide service to existing farm tap users currently receiving certain services from NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), pursuant to a contractual arrangement between Northern and NorthWestern, which will expire December 31, 2017.

On July 27, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 31, 2017, to interested entities and persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene were filed. Comments were received from a number of persons. On August 23, 2017, the Commission issued an Order Approving Tariff Revisions on Less than 30 Days' Notice. On October 30, 2017, the Commission issued an Order Approving Tariff Revisions that included a requirement for initial safety inspections of the customer-owned farm tap facilities prior to commencing service with MidAmerican. In the event the customer-owned service line does not comply with the safety requirements outlined in the tariff, the service line must be repaired or replaced before the customer may begin taking service.

In addition to the new customers MidAmerican obtained through this docket, MidAmerican had 13 existing farm tap customers, of which one customer has since retired service. On September 28, 2018, MidAmerican submitted a letter and a plan to perform safety inspections on the existing farm tap customers' facilities. No additional safety inspections will be required for three existing farm tap customers as MidAmerican owns and operates the downstream piping. For the remaining nine existing farm tap customers whose facilities need to be inspected, MidAmerican proposes to recover \$1,000 of inspection costs through the Purchased Gas Adjustment and not charge these existing customers a transition fee. The existing farm tap customers will be responsible for the cost of any repairs to the customer-owned facilities.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, and 49-34A-8.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of MidAmerican's inspection plan for existing farm tap customers. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request for approval of MidAmerican's inspection plan for existing farm tap customers with the conditions that MidAmerican inform customers of the possibility of an emergency shutoff and provide customers the option of waiting until spring for an inspection. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MidAmerican's request for approval of the inspection plan for existing farm tap customers is hereby granted with the conditions that MidAmerican inform customers of the possibility of an emergency shutoff and provide customers the option of waiting until spring for an inspection.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of November 2018.

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 or by mail.
By: <u>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>11/19/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner