

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR) AND SUSPENDING OPERATION OF
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC) PROPOSED RATES
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EL14-072

On August 4, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed an Application for Authority to Increase Electric Rates (Application) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Application seeks Commission approval to increase rates for electric service to its customers in South Dakota by approximately \$1.6 million annually or approximately 13.8% based on MidAmerican's test year ending December 31, 2013. MidAmerican states that a typical residential electric customer using 852 kWh per month would see an increase of \$9.65 per month. The proposed changes will potentially affect approximately 4,500 customers in MidAmerican's South Dakota service territory. On August 7, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 24, 2014, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this Order, no petitions to intervene or comments have been 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. SDCL 49-1A-8 also authorizes the Commission to assess a filing fee of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to defray expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application for approval of a tariff mechanism for the automatic annual adjustment of charges for jurisdictional costs of new or modified transmission facilities. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 19, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. In accordance with Staff's request, the Commission voted unanimously to assess MidAmerican filing fees pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 for expenses related to the general rate case and up to the statutory limit of \$50,000 for expenses related to the transmission cost recovery tariff 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 August 4, 2014. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MidAmerican 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 MidAmerican shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for expenses related to the transmission cost recovery tariff, 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 August 4, 2014, pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of August, 2014.

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>Joy Laskley</u>
Date:	<u>8.26.14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner