

From: PUC
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 8:05 AM
To: Peggy Bryant [REDACTED]
Subject: EL23-020

Ms. Bryant,

This is in response to your comment regarding MDU's requested electric utility rate increase, docket [EL23-020](#), filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

MDU submitted their requested electric rate increase on Aug. 15, 2023, requesting an overall increase of 17.3 percent. The reasons for this requested increase were explained by MDU in their [filed letter](#) and [application](#). The docket has been under review by my fellow commissioners and me, and PUC staff for more than one year. The PUC staff evaluated MDU's filings and made numerous requests for further information on specific issues. During yesterday's commission meeting, commissioners voted to reduce MDU's electric increase to 7.93 percent, in alignment with the proposal put forth by staff after months of data requests and analyzing the utility's financial information. MDU's previous electric rate increase was in 2016, resulting in approximately a 9.9 percent increase.

The commission has six months to investigate and make a decision about a rate request before the utility may put interim rates into effect, subject to refund with interest depending on the commission's decision. Yesterday's decision will result in a refund with interest, as you will see reflected in your MDU statements.

By state law, the utility's staff is allowed up to 30 days to respond to each PUC data request so the discovery process on a complex docket such as this can be a lengthy process. This discovery took place before my fellow commissioners and I asked further questions during yesterday's publicly noticed meeting, and before making our decisions and ultimately voting on the rate increase request. This [Information Guide](#) may be helpful to you in understanding the commission's processing of a rate docket such as this.

I understand your concern about increased rates, along with other increased costs you are managing. I encourage you to reach out to the commission's Consumer Affairs staff to see if there are additional tools that may be helpful to you with your MDU bills, beyond the Balance Billing that you are using. You may talk with a PUC staff member by calling 605-773-3201 or sending an email to PUC@state.sd.us addressed to PUC staff.

Your email and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in MDU's online docket.

Thank you for reaching out to share your view with the commission.

Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
PUC.sd.gov