

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., A )  
DIVISION OF MDU RESOURCES GROUP, )  
INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS )  
ELECTRIC RATES )  
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**ORDER SUSPENDING  
OPERATION OF PROPOSED  
RATES; ORDER ASSESSING  
FILING FEE; ORDER  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO  
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

**EL23-020**

On August 15, 2023, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU or Company) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$3.0 million annually or approximately 17.3% based on MDU’s test year ending December 31, 2022. The Company states a typical residential electric customer using 900 kWh per month would see an increase of approximately \$20.00 per month or 17.6%. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 8,500 electric customers in MDU’s South Dakota service territory.

On August 17, 2023, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 13, 2023, to interested persons and entities on the Commission’s PUC Weekly Filings electronic 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 days following the date on which the proposed rates were filed. SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to \$500,000 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 Chapter 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 29, 2023, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MDU for 180 days after the Application filing date of August 15, 2023. The Commission further voted unanimously to assess MDU a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for expenses related to the general rate case and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after the Application filing date of August 15, 2023. It is further

ORDERED, that MDU shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 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 executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023.

<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: <u>Adam de Hueck</u>
Date: <u>9/1/23</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chi Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner