

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
SECOND DATA REQUEST ISSUED JUNE 2, 2020  
DOCKET NO. GE20-002**

- 2-1. Considering the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission never ordered a moratorium on utility disconnections, explain why any bad debt expense caused by the Company's voluntary moratorium shouldn't be viewed as another form of charitable contributions.

**Response:**

In consideration of the emergency declared nationally and by the state of South Dakota, Montana-Dakota took action necessary to protect customers and employees by suspending non-pay service disconnections. This action was consistent with steps taken by utilities throughout the nation. The economic uncertainty facing the nation also caused the Company to address means of assisting customers. Montana-Dakota advised the Commission of this action on March 25, 2020. The Commission's request to the South Dakota delegation dated April 23, 2020 to oppose a national directive regarding consumer protections recognized the Commission's work with each of the utilities which also lends support to the actions taken by Montana-Dakota.