

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF STAFF'S REQUEST )</b>	<b>ORDER APPROVING )</b>
<b>REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 2021 COLD )</b>	<b>VARIANCE TO MONTANA- )</b>
<b>WEATHER EVENT AND ITS IMPACT ON UTILITY )</b>	<b>DAKOTA PURCHASE GAS )</b>
<b>FUEL CLAUSE ADJUSTMENTS AND )</b>	<b>ADJUSTMENT RATE 88 )</b>
<b>PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENTS )</b>	<b>TARIFF )</b>
)	)
)	)
)	<b>GE21-001</b>

On February 17, 2021, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Commission staff (Staff) for Temporary Waiver of Fuel Clause Adjustment and Purchased Gas Adjustment Tariff Provisions to Mitigate Rate Impacts due to the February 2021 cold weather event. Staff requested the Commission issue an Order authorizing Staff to work with the South Dakota electric and natural gas investor-owned utilities to make the necessary modifications to the Fuel Clause Adjustment and/or Purchased Gas Adjustment tariffs to mitigate the rate impact associated with the natural gas costs from the February 2021 cold weather event. Staff also requested the Commission provide a temporary waiver of the tariff language that might be contradictory to the modifications implemented regarding this specific weather event.

On February 18, 2021, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 22, 2021, to interested entities and persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. Parties to the docket include Black Hills Power, Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (Black Hills); MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican); Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Montana-Dakota); NorthWestern Corporation dba NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern); Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail); and Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) (jointly, Investor-Owned Utilities).

On February 25, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Granting Temporary Waiver of Tariff Provisions on Less Than 30 Days' Notice to Mitigate Rate Impacts for Montana-Dakota, NorthWestern, and MidAmerican Customers. The Order specifically approved the plans as explained in Staff's memorandum and discussed at the ad hoc commission meeting on February 23, 2021 and specified that any additional modifications shall require future Commission approval.

On March 31, 2021, Montana-Dakota filed a letter requesting a variance to its Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 tariff to allow an alternative computation of the surcharge amount and the timing of implementation. The requested variance will allow Montana-Dakota to recover the gas costs over a 17-month period beginning May 1, 2021. Montana-Dakota proposes a staggered rate recovery, in which summer rates differ from winter rates, for firm customers and a flat rate recovery method for interruptible customers.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, and 49-34A-25 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 29, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Staff recommended approval of the requested variance to Montana-Dakota's Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 tariff beginning May 1, 2021. Finding the variance to be just and reasonable, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the requested variance to Montana-Dakota's Purchase Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 tariff beginning May 1, 2021. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Montana-Dakota's request for a variance to its Purchase Gas Cost Adjustment Rate 88 tariff is hereby approved beginning May 1, 2021.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.

**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: [Signature]

Date: 30 April 2021

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]

GARY HANSON, Commissioner