

NG 99-003



MidAmerican Energy Company
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 P.O. Box 778
 Sioux City, Iowa 51102
 712 777-3500 Telephone

August 6, 1999

RECEIVED

AUG 8 9 1999

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
 UTILITIES COMMISSION

Mr. William Bullard
 Executive Director
 South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
 500 East Capitol Avenue
 Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Bullard:

MidAmerican Energy Company is hereby submitting the proposed gas tariff change for filing.

MidAmerican Energy Company
 South Dakota Gas Tariff

S.D.P.U.C Section No. V

First Revised Sheet No. 12 Canceling Original Issue Sheet No. 12

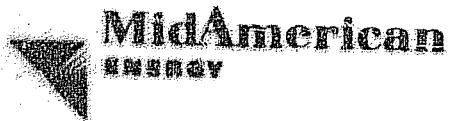
This filing contains the Gas Service Extension tariff change to include the excess flow valves, which are available for purchase by customers for installation when the service line is installed or during replacement of service.

The Customers will have the option to purchase or not purchase the excess flow valve. The cost of the purchase of the excess flow valve is \$52 for the installation and cost of the valve. The cost support of the \$52 charge is included with this filing.

The Company accounting treatment of the \$52 collected from the customer will be credited to FERC Account 107 plant accounts. The treatment will be similar to customer contributions in aid of construction.

The Company is filing this tariff change to be in accordance with Department of Transportation Regulation 49 C.F.R. Sec. 192-383.

Also included in the filing for information purposes, is a copy of the Company's form letter used to advise customers of the option to purchase excess flow valves. The Customer must elect on the form letter whether to purchase or not purchase the excess flow valve and sign the form.



Continued Page 2
William Bullard

The Company requests that the tariff change become effective September 9, 1999.

Enclosed for filing are five copies of the accompanying tariff sheet plus an additional copy to be file-stamped and returned in the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 712-277-7704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin G. Sorensen".

Marvin G. Sorensen
Gas Pricing strategist

MGS/lkc

Cc: Suzan Stewart

Enclosures

RULES AND REGULATIONS

6.00 Gas Service Line (Continued)

6.01 Expense of Installation (Continued)

- 5) If the design of a building, its arrangement, or location on the lot, its interior occupancy, or the existence of obstructions between the building and the gas main make it impractical in the Company's opinion to install a gas service line and at the same time satisfy all safety requirements, the Company may refuse to install a gas service line to the premises. Where such a situation exists and it is possible to install a gas service line by special design or extra construction and such gas service line can be installed safely, the Company will design and install the gas service line to suit the particular circumstances, providing the following conditions are met:
 - a) The design, arrangement, and location of the gas service line is accepted and approved by the applicant.
 - b) The applicant agrees to pay the Company for all extraordinary or abnormal construction costs including the cost of casing if required.
 - c) The design does not violate any federal, state, local, city or company standard.
- 6) Installation of gas service lines are scheduled by the Company for completion during the regular construction season.
 - a) The Company may make a charge for extra cost of the construction of a gas service line if installation is required in other than during the regular construction season.

6.10 Excess Flow Valves - The Company shall provide written notification in single instance, residential service customers, where a new or replacement service line that operates continuously at a pressure not less than ten (10) pounds per square inch gauge or greater is to be installed, of the availability for installation of an excess flow valve meeting the performance standards prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation at 49 C.F.R. Sec. 192.381.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. Sec. 192.383 the Company will install an excess flow valve at the service address at the Customer's request. The Customer is responsible for reimbursing the Company for the fully-allocated cost of the installation. The Company shall also be reimbursed for the fully-allocated cost of any post-installation activities, such as repairing, resetting, replacing, and deactivating an excess flow valve, by the then current customer at said service address at the time the activity is undertaken.

Installation Charge: New Service - \$52.00

Post-installation Activities - Fully allocated costs as determined by Company. (Typically, the fully loaded labor, equipment, and material costs for the removal and/or repair of asphalt, concrete, sod, landscaping, piping, and installation charge, if applicable.)

Date Filed: August 8, 1999 **Effective Date:** September 9, 1999

Issued By: James J. Howard
Vice President

Dear Natural Gas Customer:

The service line bringing natural gas to your home will be installed or replaced soon. Please review the following information.

<p>Why are excess flow valves being offered?</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Transportation regulations 49CFR 192.383 require that we notify you in writing that you may choose to have an excess flow valve installed. If you choose to have an excess flow valve installed, you agree to pay all costs associated with the excess flow valve. Installation of an excess flow valve is not mandatory.</p>
<p>What is an excess flow valve and what are its benefits?</p>	<p>An excess flow valve is a device installed in the service line which is designed to automatically restrict the flow of gas to your home if the service line is cut, breaks, or is severed.</p>
<p>What are the charges that I am responsible to pay?</p>	<p>Installation At the time we install or replace your gas service line \$52.00 After your service line is installed (Estimated costs) \$400-\$1,000</p> <p>Maintenance All future costs for maintenance, replacement, or removal of the excess flow valve (Estimated costs for each incident) \$400-\$1,000</p>
<p>Must I decide now?</p>	<p>Within five working days, please return this form to MidAmerican Energy indicating your election.</p>
<p>Does the excess flow valve being offered meet the industry standards?</p>	<p>Yes, the excess flow valve we are offering to you meets the performance standards prescribed under the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations section 49 CFR 192.381.</p>
<p>Will the excess flow valve restrict gas flow for small leaks?</p>	<p>Not necessarily. The excess flow valve is designed to detect significant increased flow. It may not detect small leaks. Even if an excess flow valve is installed, it is very important that you call MidAmerican Energy if you smell natural gas.</p>

Please choose one of the following options:

I elect to **NOT PURCHASE** an excess flow valve for installation at this time.

I elect to **PURCHASE** an excess flow valve at a cost of \$52.00. I further agree to pay all future maintenance, replacement, and removal costs.

Customer/Builder Name _____

Excess Flow Valve Address _____

Telephone Number (_____) _____ - _____

Customer/Builder Signature _____ Date _____

(Back of this form to be completed by MidAmerican Energy employees)

➤ To Install 1/2" CTS or 1" CTS EFV (Stick) on a New Plastic Service

(1) Time for two man crew to make a butt fusion joint: 20 min

Foreman	\$21 per hr x 1/3 hr x 150.27% (labor loading) =	\$10.51
Laborer	\$18 per hr x 1/3 hr x 150.27% (labor loading) =	\$9.02
		\$19.53

(2) Costs of EFV Including Procurement & Inventory = \$32.13

Total (1) + (2) = \$51.66

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

WEEKLY FILINGS

For the Period of August 5, 1999 through August 11, 1999

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT99-023 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Lou Schuelke on behalf of Lazy S Campground, Hill City, South Dakota, against U S WEST Communications, Inc. Regarding Poor Service and Request to have Lines Updated.

The Complainant alleges poor service resulting in outages of several days. The Complainant seeks the following relief: "I feel the Public Utilities needs to investigate U S WEST and put on some pressure so they either upgrade or do something to improve our service."

Staff Analysts: Leni Healy, Michele Farris

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Filed: 08/05/99

Intervention Deadline: NA

CT99-024 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Evelyn Weaver, Pierre, South Dakota, against Western Telecom Regarding Unauthorized Billing for Services.

The Complainant was billed for unauthorized service. The Complainant seeks the following relief: "They should be banned from operation."

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck

Date Filed: 08/05/99

Intervention Deadline: NA

CT99-025 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Jeanne Green, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against U S WEST Communications, Inc. Regarding Excessive Repair Charges.

The Complainant was charged \$80 for trouble isolation and believes this charge to be excessive. The Complainant seeks the following relief: "Please do not approve such high rates for services most Americans can't afford."

Staff Analysts: Leni Healy, Keith Senger

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck

Date Filed: 08/05/99

Intervention Deadline: NA

CT99-026 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Judy Raker, Rapid City, South Dakota, against U S WEST Communications, Inc. Regarding Delayed Service.

The Complainant requested service to their new home and trucking business in a new development in May, 1999. They were promised service on July 14, 1999. The Complainant did not receive service on that date and was not notified by U S WEST until she contacted the company. Several commitments for service have been missed. As a result the Complainant rented office space in Rapid City to run the trucking business. Complete phone service to the office space in Rapid City has also been delayed. The Complainant is seeking damages to compensate for the rented office space in Rapid City, installation costs for the line to the Rapid City office, and related expenses for delay and "total lack of concern for a small South Dakota business."

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Filed: 08/05/99

Intervention Deadline: NA

CT99-027 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Edward Peltz, Hill City, South Dakota, against U S WEST Communications, Inc. Regarding Poor Service and Request to have Lines Updated.

The Complainant submitted a petition, signed by neighbors in his area, claiming poor service. The Complainant seeks the following relief: "U S West (should) be forced to put some good equipment in."

Staff Analysts: Leni Healy, Michele Farris

Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer

Date Filed: 08/06/99

Intervention Date: NA

NATURAL GAS

NG99-003 In the Matter of the Filing by MidAmerican Energy Company for Approval of Tariff Revisions.

MidAmerican Energy Company is filing to revise their South Dakota Gas Tariff by adding Subsection 5.10 Excess Flow Valves. The new subsection defines the charges and policies MidAmerican will follow concerning the installation of excess flow valves.

Staff Analyst: Martin Bettmann

Staff Attorney: Camron Hoseck

Date Filed: 08/9/99

Intervention Deadline: 08/27/99

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§192.381 Service Lines: Excess flow valve performance standards



May 22,

98

- (a) Excess flow valves to be used on single residence service lines that operate continuously throughout the year at a pressure not less than 10 p.s.i. (69 kPa) gage must be manufactured and tested by the manufacturer according to an industry specification, or the manufacturer's written specification, to ensure that each valve will:
 - (1) Function properly up to the maximum operating pressure at which the valve is rated;
 - (2) Function properly at all temperatures reasonably expected in the operating environment of the service line;
 - (3) At p.s.i. (69 kPa) gage:
 - (i) Close at, or not more than 50 percent above, the rated closure flow rate specified by the manufacturer; and
 - (ii) Upon closure, reduce gas flow-
 - (A) For an excess flow valve designed to allow pressure to equalize across the valve, to no more than 5 percent of the manufacturer's specified closure flow rate, up to a maximum of 20 cubic feet per hour (0.57 cubic meters per hour);, or
 - (B) For an excess flow valve designed to prevent equalization of pressure across the valve, to no more than 0.4 cubic feet per hour (.01 cubic meters per hour); and
 - (4) Not close when the pressure is less than the manufacturer's minimum specified operating pressure and the flow rate is below the manufacturer's minimum specified closure flow rate
- (b) An excess flow valve must meet the applicable requirements of Subparts B and D of this part
- (c) An operator must mark or otherwise identify the presence of an excess flow valve on the service line
- (d) An operator shall locate an excess flow valve as near as practical to the fitting connecting the service line to its source of gas supply.
- (e) An operator should not install an excess flow valve on a service line where the operator has prior experience with contaminants in the gas stream, where these contaminants could be expected to cause the excess flow valve to malfunction or where the excess flow valve would interfere with necessary operation and maintenance activities on the service, such as blowing liquids from the line

[Amdt. 192-79, 61 FR 31449, June 19, 1996, Amdt. 192-80, 62 FR 2618, Jan 17, 1997, Amdt. 192-85, 63 FR 37500, July 13, 1998]

§192.383 Excess flow valve customer notification.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

Costs associated with installation means the costs directly connected with installing an excess flow valve, for example, costs of parts, labor, inventory and procurement. It does not include maintenance and replacement costs until such costs are incurred.

Replaced service line means a natural gas service line where the fitting that connects the service line to the main is replaced or the piping connected to this fitting is replaced.

Service line customer means the person who pays the gas bill, or where service has not yet been established, the person requesting service.

(b) *Which customers must receive notification.* Notification is required on each newly installed service line or replaced service line that operates continuously throughout the year at a pressure not less than 68.9 kPa (10 psig) and that serves a single residence. On these lines an operator of a natural gas distribution system must notify the service line customer once in writing.

(c) *What to put in the written notice.*

- (1) An explanation for the customer that an excess flow valve meeting the performance standards prescribed under §192.381 is available for the operator to install if the customer bears the costs associated with installation;
- (2) An explanation for the customer of the potential safety benefits that may be derived from installing an excess flow valve. The explanation must include that an excess flow valve is designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks;
- (3) A description of installation, maintenance, and replacement costs. The notice must explain that if the customer requests the operator to install an EFV, the customer bears all costs associated with installation, and what those costs are. The notice must alert the customer that costs for maintaining and replacing an EFV may later be incurred, and what those costs will be, to the extent known.

(d) *When notification and installation must be made.*

- (1) After February 3, 1999 an operator must notify each service line customer set forth in paragraph (b) of this section:
 - (i) On new service lines when the customer applies for service.
 - (ii) On replaced service lines when the operator determines the service line will be replaced.
- (2) If a service line customer requests installation an operator must install the EFV at a mutually agreeable date.

(e) *What records are required.*

- (1) An operator must make the following records available for inspection by the Administrator or a State agency participating under 49 U.S.C. 60105 or 60106:
 - (i) A copy of the notice currently in use, and
 - (ii) Evidence that notice has been sent to the service line customers set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, within the previous three years.
- (2) [Reserved]

(f) *When notification is required.*

The notification requirements do not apply if the operator can demonstrate-

- (1) That the operator will voluntarily install an excess flow valve or that the state or local jurisdiction

- requires installation;
- (2) That excess flow valves meeting the performance standards of §192.381 are not available to the operator;
 - (3) That an operator has prior experience with contaminants in the gas stream that could interfere with the operation of an excess flow valve, cause loss of service to a residence, or interfere with necessary operation or maintenance activities, such as blowing liquids from the line.
 - (4) That an emergency or short time notice replacement situation made it impractical for the operator to notify a service line customer before replacing a service line. Examples of these situations would be where an operator has to replace a service line quickly because of:
 - (i) Third party excavation damage;
 - (ii) Grade 1 leaks as defined in the Appendix G-192-11 of the Gas Piping Technology Committee guide for gas transmission and distribution systems;
 - (iii) A short notice service line relocation request.

[Amdt. 192-83, 63 FR 5464, Feb, 3, 1998]

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR) REVISIONS
APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS)
REGARDING EXCESS FLOW VALVES) NG99-093

On August 9, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) for approval of Section No. V, First Revised Sheet No. 12, canceling Original Issue Sheet No. 12 of its South Dakota gas tariff. The tariff change includes an excess flow valve, which is available for purchase by customers for installation when the service line is installed or during replacement of service.

On September 8, 1999, at its regularly scheduled meeting, Commission Staff reported that it had reviewed MidAmerican's filing and recommended approval of the above referenced tariff change. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-2, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-5, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, and 49-34A-12. The Commission finds that the revision to the tariff is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED that revised tariff Section No. V, First Revised Sheet No. 12, canceling Original Issue Sheet No. 12, is hereby approved and is effective for service rendered on and after September 9, 1999.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of September, 1999.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Delaine Koelbe</u>
Date: <u>9/14/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner