



A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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September 5, 2024

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: Chairperson Fiegen's Request for Information Regarding Line Hits
Docket Nos. EL23-020 and NG23-014**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota or Company) herewith electronically submits information in response to questions asked of the Company at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) August 13, 2023 agenda meeting.

While considering Montana-Dakota's gas and electric rate increase requests, in the above referenced dockets, at the August 13 meeting, Chairperson Fiegen asked a series of questions of Company personnel regarding hits, damages, and any reporting surrounding such hits. The Company did not have the information readily available to respond to the questions and therefore noted additional information could be provided following the meeting. Information requested included:

- Number of hits that occurred in 2023 in South Dakota = 136
- Number of hits due to mis-locates = 18 (includes both Company and its contractors)
- Number of One-Call complaints filed by Montana-Dakota = 2
- Number of One-Call complaints filed against Montana-Dakota = 0
- Total amount billed responsible party for damages = \$215,606
- Total cost of lost gas = \$13,392

In the event a line hit occurs and the party responsible for causing the damage is either an outside third party or a Montana-Dakota contractor, such as a locating company, the party responsible is billed for any damages resulting from the hit. If the line strike is determined to be the Company's responsibility, for example the hit occurs as a result of an inaccurate map, the cost to repair the damages is a system cost like any other cost for maintaining a gas distribution system.

Safety is an integral part of Montana-Dakota's culture. The Company continually strives to minimize any damages to its system due to line hits and directs additional efforts on high-damage areas. Additionally, bill inserts and advertising campaigns are undertaken annually to help raise awareness of safe digging practices and to always contact 811.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (701) 222-7855 or travis.jacobson@mdu.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Travis R. Jacobson

Travis R. Jacobson
Director of Regulatory Affairs

cc: B. Koenecke