

# Memo

To: Patricia Van Gerpen  
From: Nathan D. Solem  
CC: Kara Semmler, Karen Cremer, Jim Mann, Don Ball, Tamie Aberle, Scott Besmer  
Date: March 16, 2009  
Re: Montana-Dakota Utilities Gas Distribution Incident – March 14, 2009 Rapid City, SD

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On Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 12:15 am an explosion occurred at an auto repair facility at 128 E. Main Street North in Rapid City causing over an estimated \$100,000 in damage. Subsequent investigation by the natural gas company – Montana-Dakota Utilities – showed leaks in the gas main in front of the facility. Since the loss level met the minimum required for a reportable incident and due to leaks found, the incident was reported under 49 CFR 191.3, giving the PUC jurisdiction over the incident.

Staff requests that a docket be opened to facilitate the investigation into this incident. Upon completion of the investigation, a report to the Commission will be issued.