

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUC STAFF’S COMPLAINT AGAINST GARRETSON NATURAL GAS UTILITIES	Docket No. PS25-001 ANSWER
---	---

COMES NOW Garretson Municipal Gas Utilities (“Garretson”), by and through its counsel of record, and for its Answer to the Complaint of PUC Staff, states as follows:

ANSWER

1. Garretson denies each and every matter, allegation, claim, count, and thing contained in PUC Staff’s Complaint, except as admitted or otherwise qualified herein.

2. As to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of PUC Staff’s Complaint, Garretson admits the allegations set forth therein.

3. As to Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of PUC Staff’s Complaint, the allegations set forth therein constitute legal conclusions to which no response is required.

4. As to Paragraph 6 of PUC Staff’s Complaint, Garretson admits the allegations set forth therein.

5. As to Paragraph 7 of PUC Staff’s Complaint, the applicable statutes require that Garretson maintain records showing relief capacity calculations and make them available upon request. Garretson admits it did not have records specifically showing the relief capacity calculations in its possession for the years in question; however, it affirmatively asserts that it completes annual inspections as required by applicable rules and regulations, including relief capacity inspections and that it had done so for each of the years in question and that it documents

the date, time, and participants for such inspections and has these records for the years in question.

6. As to Paragraphs 8 and 9 of PUC Staff's Complaint, Garretson admits that Ms. Zanter issued a Summary of Deficiencies to Garretson discussing the relief capacity calculation issues for years 2022 and 2023 and proposed a correction due date of October 15, 2024, and further admits that specific calculation records were not provided by October 15, 2024.

7. As to Paragraphs 10 and 11 of PUC Staff's Complaint, Garretson admits that Ms. Zanter demanded that the relief capacity calculations be provided by January 15, 2025. Garretson asserts that at that time it was working with Gas Training Specialties to provide that information. Garretson has a contractual relationship with Gas Training Specialties, wherein Gas Training Specialties prepares the relief valve calculations in connection with the annual inspection and maintenance it completes for Garretson's natural gas system. *See* Paragraph 5.

8. As to Paragraphs 12 and 13 of PUC Staff's Complaint, Garretson is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations regarding the Summary of Deficiencies issued on or about May 18, 2022, and therefore remits Staff to strict proof thereof. *See* Paragraph 5.

9. As to the section of PUC Staff's Complaint labeled "Legal Authority and Analysis," Garretson asserts that this section consists of legal conclusions, the making of which rests within the province of the Commission and therefore no response by Garretson to the legal discussion and recommendations is required at this time. Garretson reserves its right to present further information and argument regarding Staff's requested relief of an order of violation and fine.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2025, at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Cutler Law Firm, LLP

/s/ Meredith A. Moore

Meredith A. Moore

140 North Phillips Avenue, 4th Floor

Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1400

Telephone: (605) 335-4950

Email: meredithm@cutlerlawfirm.com

Attorney for City of Garretson