

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUC STAFF'S)	ORDER APPROVING
COMPLAINT AGAINST GARRETSON)	SETTLEMENT AND
NATURAL GAS UTILITIES)	STIPULATION AGREEMENT
)	AND PLAN OF ACTION AND
)	ASSESSING PENALTY
)	
)	PS25-001

On March 4, 2025, Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) filed a Complaint against Garretson Natural Gas Utilities (Garretson). The Complaint alleged Garretson failed to maintain required pipeline safety records.

On March 6, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On March 25, 2025, Garretson filed its Answer to the Complaint. On August 13, 2025, Garretson and staff filed a Settlement Stipulation and Agreement as a negotiated resolution in the Docket. Staff and Garretson agreed to \$5,000 penalty, with \$2,500 suspended upon the condition that Garretson implement the agreed Plan of Action and maintain the specified records for the next two inspection periods. On August 29, 2025, Garretson filed the Plan of Action.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-45, specifically, SDCL 49-34B-5 and SDCL 49-34B-12.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 9, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after making further inquiry of the parties, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Stipulation and assess a \$5,000 civil penalty against Garretson, with \$2,500 suspended, pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation and Plan of Action. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Stipulation is hereby adopted and shall be incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED that the Commission hereby assesses a civil fine in the amount of \$5,000, with \$2,500 suspended, against Garretson Natural Gas Utilities. It is further

ORDERED, that Garretson shall pay the unsuspended portion of the civil fine, in the amount of \$2,500 within 30 days of receipt of this Order Adopting Stipulation and Assessing Penalty. It is further

ORDERED, that if Garretson adheres to the terms of the Stipulation and Plan of Action, the \$2,500 suspended portion of the civil fine shall be discharged after a compliant 2028 inspection.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of September 2025.

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: *Jerome L. Fierst*

Date: 09/15/2025

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chi Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner