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BY: E-filing

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

RE: RM16-001
In the Matter of the Consideration of Rules Regarding Stray Electrical
Current and Voltage Remediation
MidAmerican Energy Company Written Comments

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) respectfully submits the following written comments to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regarding the proposed stray voltage rules pursuant to the Commission's Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt Rules.

MidAmerican appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments to the proposed rules. At the public hearing, the Commission invited the parties to make written comments on specific sections of the rule. In response to the Commission's request, MidAmerican offers the following comments.

Specific Sections Identified for Comment

Section 20:10:39:07 (3)

On page 10 of the proposed rules, the Commission asked if any party objected to the deletion in the first part of the sentence in Section 20:10:39:07(3). MidAmerican does not object to the deletion.

Section 20:10:39:19

The Commission also noted that on page 13, the committee on form and style has a note asking if the word “utility” should be changed to “service provider” in Section 20:10:39:19. MidAmerican agrees that it should remain utility. Leaving “utility” in the rule adds clarity by identifying who is performing the analysis.

Section 20:10:39:22

Proposed Section 20:10:39:21 recognizes that remote reference electrodes should be installed within certain distances from equipment when practicable. MidAmerican does not have any objection to the deletion of the first sentence on page 14. The Commission also highlighted a note asking “how many ground rods should be indicated in the rules?” MidAmerican agrees that the rule should remain as written to allow the flexibility needed for each testing site since the number of ground rods may depend on the particular set up of the dairy farm.

Section 20:10:39:26

The Commission also highlighted changes on page 17 to Section 20:10:39:26. The Commission observed that no further detail regarding notations is needed. MidAmerican agrees.

Section 20:10:39:38

On page 21 of the proposed rules, the Commission noted it would retain the definition in Section 20:10:39:38 and delete the same reference on page 17 in Section 20:10:39:19. MidAmerican agrees with this proposal.

Section 20:10:39:45

The proposed language in Section 20:10:39:45 states that “[i]f the measured and calculated voltage drops differ significantly further investigation shall be undertaken. . . .” The Commission requested that the parties provide feedback on what is “significantly.” MidAmerican notes that this is another area where flexibility may be needed because the definition may change based on the assumptions made regarding the impedance of the electrical lines. MidAmerican does not have any specific recommendations other than to leave the language as is to allow the qualified professional to determine differences based on the circumstances of the dairy farm being tested.

Section 20:10:39:50

Two questions were raised regarding proposed Section 20:10:39:50 on page 25. The first question was regarding the use of “only.” MidAmerican agrees that these are the only steps. If the Commission believes “only” is needed to clarify that these steps are the

exclusive steps, MidAmerican does not object to adding “only.” MidAmerican also does not object to leaving the descriptive terms in subsection (4).

Section 20:10:39:53

The Commission noted that striking the last sentence to Section 20:10:39:53 on page 27 of the proposed rules did not seem to make sense. MidAmerican agrees. The tester should attempt to minimize all potential sources as possible to determine if the utility source is the contributing factor for the dairy producer. The intent of the deleted sentence is to allow the coordination of the test with the rest of the electricity supplied to the farm in order to isolate the problem between the dairy operations and the utility source.

Section 20:10:39:59

The Commission asked the parties present at the hearing what they thought a reasonable time would be in Section 20:10:39:59. Some parties suggested thirty-days should be used and MidAmerican does not object to this timeframe.

General Comments

The Commission noted that it did not want to accept the changes that used initials or acronyms instead of spelling out a term. MidAmerican has no issues with leaving the term in the rules.

On page 6, the Commission noted there seems to be an issue as to whether the term “quality” or “quantity” should be used in the definition of “Resistance.” MidAmerican can agree to the use of “quality” to reference a description to a physical property of a material. However, the Commission may want to consider using “characteristic.” Upon further reflection, characteristic may better describe the physical property since resistance is the measurement of the material properties ability to carry electric current and voltage.

On page 7, in subsection (21), there was discussion about the use of “quantity” and the discussion was that “quantity” was the correct word. MidAmerican agrees.

Finally, the Commission noted the change from “may” to “shall” on page 8 and asked the parties if this change was acceptable. MidAmerican agrees the change is acceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further comment on the proposed rules.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jennifer S. Moore

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Senior Attorney