

Natural Gas Orders - Issued 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL TO RETURN REFUND THROUGH ITS PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE))))	ORDER APPROVING RETURN OF REFUND THROUGH PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT IMPLEMENTED ON LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS NOTICE NG96-022
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On December 18, 1996, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval of a proposal to return a refund received from Northern Natural Gas to its customers through the January, 1997 purchased gas adjustment (PGA).

MidAmerican specifically requested express authority to include the Northern Natural Gas refund in its January, 1997, PGA and stated that it would reduce January gas rates by \$.01578 per therm for small volume firm customers and reduce the interruptible gas rates by \$.00215 per therm. MidAmerican's justification for this request is tha customers would realize benefits arising from the expedited treatment of the refund during the present period marked by higher gas costs. MidAmerican further requested that the refund be implemented on less than thirty days notice pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:20.

At an ad hoc meeting of December 20, 1996, the Commission considered MidAmerican's application. Commission Staff recommended approval of the refund and implementing the refund on less than thirty days notice. Staff further noted for the Commission's consideration that MidAmerican's tariff permitted the refund in this manner since the total refund amount is \$248,227, including interest.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-2, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-25 and ARSD 20:10:13:20. Further, the Commission finds that the refund in the manner proposed is just and reasonable and shall be approved. It is therefore

ORDERED, that MidAmerican's proposal to return a refund received from Northern Natural Gas through its January 1997, PGA as described above is approved and shall be effective January 1, 1997; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the refund may be implemented on less than thirty days notice pursuant to ARSD 20:10:13:20.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of January, 1997.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER,
Commissioner

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