

Natural Gas Orders - Issued 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED)
BY ARNOLD MURRAY CONSTRUCTION,)
SIOUX FALLS, SD, AGAINST MIDAMERICAN)
ENERGY COMPANY REGARDING)
TRANSFERRING UNPAID BALANCES TO)
ITS ACCOUNT)**

**ORDER FINDING
PROBABLE CAUSE AND
NOTICE REQUIRING
ANSWER

NG97-012**

On July 8, 1997, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint from Arnold Murray Construction (AMC), Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) regarding transferring unpaid balances to its account. In the complaint AMC alleges that MidAmerican is transferring final bills from one meter that is inactive to an active meter without providing usage, addresses, etc. AMC states that as a property manager who fee manages for other owners, this practice is very confusing. Further, AMC explains that it is receiving bills for other owners and/or tenants and properties that should not be paid by AMC. With 100+ accounts, AMC alleges that it takes two days of telephone calls to straighten out the billing. In the complaint AMC states that MidAmerican did not have permission to bill in this manner. AMC has requested the Commission to order MidAmerican to stop this practice and to require MidAmerican to obtain consent to bill in this manner.

Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09, if a complaint cannot be settled without formal action, the Commission shall determine if the complaint shows probable cause of an unlawful or unreasonable act, rate, practice or omission to go forward with the complaint.

On July 29, 1997, a regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the matter along with comments from AMC and MidAmerican.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:08.01 and 20:10:01:09. The Commission unanimously voted to find probable cause. It is therefore

ORDERED, that probable cause has been found in this matter and that the complaint shall be forwarded to MidAmerican and MidAmerican shall file with the Commission its answer in writing within twenty (20) days of service of this order.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of August, 1997.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>	<p>BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>JAMES A. BURG, Chairman</p> <p>_____</p> <p>PAM NELSON, Commissioner</p> <p>_____</p> <p>LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner</p>
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