

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ASSESSMENT OF FILING
ASSOCIATED MILK PRODUCERS, INC.)	FEE; NOTICE OF
PIPELINE, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE)	OPPORTUNITY TO
IN AN INTRASTATE NATURAL GAS)	INTERVENE; RATES
TRANSPORTATION RATE)	SUBJECT TO REFUND
)	NG97-015

On September 5, 1997, the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. Pipeline, Inc. (AMPIP), a subsidiary of Associated Milk Producers, Inc. (AMPI), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application requesting a revision to its natural gas transportation rate and tariff so it may serve both AMPI and a new municipal gas utility to be owned and operated by the City of Freeman, South Dakota. No other type of service or rate will be offered on the pipeline at this time. In the future, AMPIP may add additional farm tap customers along the line, at the same rate under Schedule FT.

The proposed tariff is a volumetric rate reflecting underlying cost data pertinent to the pipeline configured to serve Freeman and AMPI, instead of the AMPI plant alone. AMPIP requests waiver of ARSD rules 20:10:13:04 and 20:10:13:05. AMPIP is proposing an effective date of October 5, 1997.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 25, 1997, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, AMPIP shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further directed the executive director to set a procedural schedule in this matter. Staff recommended that the transportation rate go into effect on October 5, 1997, subject to refund. AMPIP agreed to this. The Commission unanimously voted to allow the transportation rate to be effective on and after October 5, 1997, subject to refund. It is therefore

ORDERED, that AMPIP shall deposit a filing fee, to be established by the executive director, in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund and it shall deposit any additional amounts as requested by the executive director; it is further

ORDERED, that any individual or entity may file with the Commission its petition to intervene no later than October 31, 1997; and it is further

ORDERED, that the proposed transportation rate shall be effective on and after October 5, 1997, subject to refund.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 3rd day of October, 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: <u><i>Alaine Kello</i></u>
Date: <u>10/7/97</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner