

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR) NATURAL GAS SERVICE)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND HEARING NG04-001
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On April 2, 2004, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service in its service territory by \$1,559,963 or approximately 1.5% of pro forma test year revenue. MidAmerican states the proposed increase for an average residential customer would be approximately \$2.50 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 73,100 customers in MidAmerican Energy Company's service territory in southeastern South Dakota.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 26, 2004, the Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, MidAmerican shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further established an intervention deadline of May 14, 2004. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MidAmerican for 90 days beyond May 2, 2004. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-21.

The procedural schedule for testimony shall be as follows:

DATE	PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
July 30, 2004	Staff and Intervenor Prefiled Testimony Due
August 11, 2004	MidAmerican Rebuttal Testimony Due
August 17 and 18, 2004	Hearing
September 7, 2004	Initial Briefs Due
September 15, 2004	Rebuttal Briefs Due

A hearing shall be held at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 17, 2004, and Wednesday, August 18, 2004, in Room 412, State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota. The hearing is open to the public. All persons testifying shall be subject to cross-examination.

The issue at the hearing is whether the Commission shall grant MidAmerican's request to implement revised natural gas rate schedules designed to produce additional revenues of \$1,559,963.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission shall determine whether it shall grant MidAmerican's request to implement revised rate schedules. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the procedural schedule set forth above shall be followed by all parties to these proceedings. It is further

ORDERED, that the hearing shall commence at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 17, 2004, in Room 412, State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, and if necessary, shall continue through Wednesday, August 18, 2004.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of July, 2004.

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>Helaine Koehn</u>
Date:	<u>7/15/04</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman *dk*

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner