

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS NATURAL)
GAS RATES)
)
)**

**ORDER GRANTING
JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT
STIPULATION

NG12-008**

On December 21, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) for approval to increase rates for natural gas service to customers in its South Dakota service territory, consisting of the Black Hills and East River service areas, by approximately \$1.5 million based on MDU's test year ending June 30, 2012. MDU also proposed to consolidate the Black Hills and East River areas into one rate jurisdiction.

On December 28, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted noticed of the filing and the intervention deadline of February 22, 2013, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On January 18, 2013, the Commission issued an Order of Assessment of Filing Fee and Suspension of Imposition of Tariff. On February 19, 2013, Federal Executive Agencies (FEA) filed a Petition to Intervene. On March 6, 2013, the Commission issued an Order granting intervention to FEA. The Commission received a Petition to Withdraw from FEA on April 19, 2013, and on May 10, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Granting Withdrawal.

On May 21, 2013, the Commission issued an Order for and Notice of Procedural Schedule and Hearing setting the matter for hearing beginning at 9:00 a.m. on October 29 in Room 413 of the State Capitol Building in Pierre, SD. On September 27, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Changing Hearing Location. On September 19, 2013, the Commission's staff (Staff) filed a notice of stipulation between the parties to amend the filing date for Staff's testimony from September 27, 2013, to October 1, 2013. On October 1, 2013, Staff filed its testimony. On October 24, 2013, Staff filed on behalf of Staff and MDU a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Settlement Stipulation, associated tariff sheets, and Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation. On October 29, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Canceling Hearing.

The revised tariff sheets proposed by MDU, effective for service rendered on and after December 1, 2013, are as follows:

State of South Dakota Gas Rate Schedule - SDPUC Volume No. 2

Section No. 1

6th Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 5th Revised Sheet No. 1

4th Revised Sheet No. 1.1

Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 1.1

Section No. 2

2nd Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1

Section No. 3

4th Revised Sheet No. 2

Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 2

1st Revised Sheet No. 5

Canceling Original Sheet No. 5

1st Revised Sheet No. 5.1

Canceling Original Sheet No. 5.1

2 nd Revised Sheet No. 7	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 7
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 7.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 7.1
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 11	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 11
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 11.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 11.1
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 12	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 12
1 st Revised Sheet No. 12.1	Canceling Original Sheet No. 12.1
5 th Revised Sheet No. 13	Canceling 4 th Revised Sheet No. 13
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 13.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 13.1
1 st Revised Sheet No. 17	Canceling Original Sheet No. 17
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 17.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 17.1
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 22	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 22
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 22.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 22.1
1 st Revised Sheet No. 22.3	Canceling Original Sheet No. 22.3
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 26	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 26
1 st Revised Sheet No. 26.1	Canceling Original Sheet No. 26.1
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.1	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.1
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.2	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.2
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.3	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.3
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.4	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.4
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.5	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.5
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.6	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.6
1 st Revised Sheet No. 27.7	Canceling Original Sheet No. 27.7
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 28	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 28
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 28.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 28.1
4 th Revised Sheet No. 29	Canceling 3 rd Revised Sheet No. 29
1 st Revised Sheet No. 29.1	Canceling Original Sheet No. 29.1
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 29.2	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 29.2
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 29.4	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 29.4
1 st Revised Sheet No. 29.5	Canceling Original Sheet No. 29.5
4 th Revised Sheet No. 30	Canceling 3 rd Revised Sheet No. 30
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 30.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 30.1
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 30.2	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 30.2
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 30.3	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 30.3
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 30.4	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 30.4
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 30.5	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 30.5

Section No. 4

10 th Revised Sheet No. 1	Canceling 9 th Revised Sheet No. 1
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Section No. 5

2 nd Revised Sheet No. 1.1	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 1.1
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 1.13	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 1.13
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 1.14	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 1.14
3 rd Revised Sheet No. 1.15	Canceling 2 nd Revised Sheet No. 1.15
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 1.19	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 1.19
1 st Revised Sheet No. 3	Canceling Original Sheet No. 3
2 nd Revised Sheet No. 19	Canceling 1 st Revised Sheet No. 19

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically, 1-26-20, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.4, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, and 49-34A-21.

The Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation were duly noticed for Commission consideration and action at the Commission's Ad Hoc meeting on October 31, 2013. The Commission heard from MDU and Staff concerning the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and made inquiry of the parties at the meeting, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that the aforementioned tariff sheets are approved for service rendered on and after December 1, 2013.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of November, 2013.

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, electronically.	
By:	<u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date:	<u>11.5.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner