

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE)
APPLICATION OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
INTRASTATE PIPELINE COMPANY)
FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS)
NATURAL GAS RATES)**

**ORDER TO CLARIFY
DOCKET PROCEDURE**

NG17-009

On June 1, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from South Dakota Intrastate Pipeline Company (SDIP) requesting authority to increase its natural gas rates. The filing did not include a proposed rate or any of the supporting documents required by statute and rule. The filing indicated that SDIP would file the applicable required documents no later than June 30, 2017. On June 5, 2017, Commission staff (Staff) filed a letter in the docket indicating that the filing does not meet the requirements for a rate case and is therefore incomplete and subject to rejection. Additionally, Staff indicated that because the filing was incomplete, the filing did not comply with the terms of the Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in NG16-006 and requested guidance from the Commission on how to proceed.

On June 8, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 31, 2017, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments have been filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13.

At its Ad Hoc meeting on June 8, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission heard from SDIP, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., and Staff as to how to proceed. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in this docket and NG16-006 and made further inquiry of the parties at the meeting, the Commission found that no party would be prejudiced by an extension of the filing deadline to June 30, 2017. The Commission voted unanimously to allow SDIP until June 30, 2017, to file a complete rate case in accordance with NG16-006, to clarify that the 12-month statutory period for deciding a rate case would begin once a proposed rate is filed in a completed application, and to affirm that there is currently a contracted rate in place through August 31, 2018, and that any rate proposed by SDIP will not be put into effect until after the current contract ends. It is therefore

ORDERED, that SDIP shall file a complete rate case by June 30, 2017, to comply with the Settlement Agreement approved in NG16-006. It is further

ORDERED, that the statutory period for the Commission to issue a decision in the rate case, required pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-17 will not begin until the proposed rate is filed pursuant to this order. It is further

ORDERED, that because there is currently a contracted rate in place through August 31, 2018, any rate proposed by SDIP will not be put into effect until after the current contract ends.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of June, 2017.

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 or by mail.	
By:	<u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>06/13/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner