

**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 RATES FOR)
NATURAL GAS SERVICE)

JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
NG05-002

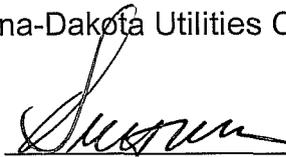
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission Staff), collectively referred to as Parties, hereby file the above referenced Motion and Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties propose that the Commission adopt the Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

1. This Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation resolves all of the issues in Docket No. NG05-002.
3. The Settlement Stipulation represents the conclusion of the undersigned parties that it is in the best interests of the Parties and the general public to reach a negotiated settlement of specific issues in this case and that the terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just, fair, and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the Commission to adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation without modification for the purpose of resolving the specific issues for use in determining the revenue requirement and appropriate rates of Montana-Dakota in Docket No. NG05-002

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

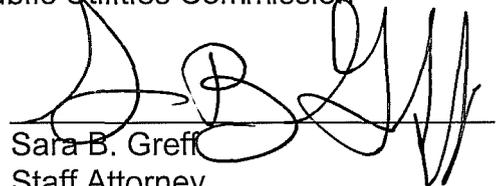
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DATED:

August 22, 2005

DATED:

AUG. 22, 2005