

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STAFF
FIRST DATA REQUEST
DATED MAY 14, 2014
DOCKET NO. NG14-04**

1-10 Provide rationale for the new restrictions placed on the programmable thermostat program, as this program appears to be very beneficial given the 4.41 TRC.

Response:

Montana-Dakota believes that limiting the programmable thermostat rebate to customers who replace their thermostat at the time of replacing their furnace and requiring it to be installed by a contractor will provide more controls on the program to ensure that the thermostat purchased is installed in the home. Also, typically when a contractor installs a programmable thermostat they provide the customer instruction on the use of the thermostat.

In 2013, Montana-Dakota issued 141 programmable thermostat rebates. Approximately 96 percent of the programmable thermostats issues were for the purchase and installation of the thermostat in conjunction with a high efficient natural gas furnace.