

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

**1-15 What factors does MDU credit for the elevated 2013 participation levels?  
How long does MDU anticipate this trend will continue?**

**Response:**

There are several factors that have contributed to the increased participation levels in 2013. The first reason is the change that Montana-Dakota made to the new construction rebate program. Prior to April 1, 2012, Montana-Dakota only offered rebates if both a high efficiency furnace and a high efficiency water heater were installed and home builders were not allowed to apply for the rebate. In 2013 home builders took advantage of this change and participation in the new construction program increased. Also, continued advertising and communication with builders and HVAC contractors has also contributed to the increased participation.

Montana-Dakota expects the participation levels to remain steady in the near future, pending any changes in programs.