

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DOCKET NO. NG14-007
DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 30, 2014**

Question 12: Provide further detail on MDU's partnership with BHP for energy audits and confirm whether or not the partnership will be pursued. In addition, explain how costs of energy audits will be shared between the two utilities.

Response:

Montana-Dakota has had exploratory conversations with Black Hills Power representatives to see if a partnership is feasible. Montana-Dakota and Black Hills Power have had the same difficulty in procuring a qualified third party auditor. At this time Montana-Dakota believes Black Hills Power intends to use in-house staff to perform the energy audits and therefore Montana-Dakota does not plan to partner with Black Hills Power.

Montana-Dakota continues to look for a qualified third party auditor for the Rapid City service area. If Montana-Dakota is successful in finding a qualified third party auditor Montana-Dakota would re-start conversations with Black Hills Power on a potential partnership that could have the potential to lower the cost of the audits for both companies.