

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION) ORDER CLOSING DOCKET
INTO THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING)
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR LDCs,) NG96-011
THEIR AGENCY BUSINESS AND AFFILIATED)
MARKETING ENTITIES)

On March 29, 1996, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from PAM Natural Gas (PNG) requesting that the Commission promulgate rules establishing standards of conduct for local distribution companies (LDCs), their agency business and affiliated marketing entities. PNG, in addition to requesting the Commission to promulgate permanent rules, requested that the Commission establish interim rules to be enforced during the rule making period or, alternatively, to "order all LDCs to cease and desist any new Affiliated Marketing or Agency sales and marketing activity to any customer not currently under contract for the period of these proceedings."

At its regularly scheduled April 23, 1996, meeting, the Commission reviewed PNG's filing. The Commission found that it had jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 1-26-5, 1-26-6, 1-26-13, and 49-34A-27. The Commission unanimously voted to deny the Petition and to open an investigative docket into the matter of establishing standards of conduct for LDCs, their agency business and affiliated marketing entities. The executive director set a procedural schedule for the filing of comments by all interested parties which were due on or before June 28, 1996.

At its regularly scheduled July 30, 1996, meeting, the Commission, having reviewed all the comments, voted to open a rule making docket and directed Commission Staff to promulgate proposed rules in this matter. It is therefore

ORDERED that Commission Staff shall promulgate proposed rules in this matter pertaining to the establishing of standards of conduct for local distribution companies, their agency business and affiliated marketing entities. It is further

ORDERED that NG96-011 is hereby closed.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14th day of August, 1996.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Delaine Kalbs</i></u>
Date: <u>8/15/96</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kenneth Stofferahn

KENNETH STOFFERAHN, Chairman

James A. Burg

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner