

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR )  
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR )  
NATURAL GAS SERVICE )

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE;  
ORDER FOR AND NOTICE  
OF HEARING  
NG98-011

On November 23, 1998, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase natural gas rates in South Dakota. The application seeks an overall increase in rates in the amount of \$3,218,414 or approximately 6.5%. The Company requested a change in rates to become effective for billings after December 23, 1998.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.02 and 20:10:01:15.03.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of December 7, 1998, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, MidAmerican shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further established an intervention deadline of thirty days beyond the date of this Order. Pursuant to SDCL 49-31-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by MidAmerican for 90 days beyond December 23, 1998.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, including 1-26-18, 1-26-19, 49-34A-2, 49-34A-3, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.1, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A-13.1, 49-34A-14, 49-34A-16, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19, 49-34A-19.1, 49-34A-19.2, 49-34A-20, 49-34A-21, 49-34A-22, and 49-34A-23.

The issue at the hearing is whether MidAmerican's natural gas rates in South Dakota shall be changed.

The procedural schedule for prefiled testimony and a hearing on this matter shall be as follows:

March 26, 1999	Staff's prefiled testimony due
April 9, 1999	MidAmerican's rebuttal testimony due
April 19-21, 1999	Hearing

The hearing shall be held April 19-21, 1999, starting at 9:00 A.M. CDT, on April 19, 1999, in Room 412, State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of this hearing, the Commission may either approve or disapprove changes in MidAmerican's natural gas rates. The Commission's decision may be appealed to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issue of whether MidAmerican's natural gas rates in South Dakota shall be changed.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1999.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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>Belaine Kelbo</u>
Date:	<u>3/5/99</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder  
LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner