

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. FOR) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR) NATURAL GAS SERVICE))	ORDER EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF IMPOSITION OF TARIFF NG02-011
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On December 30, 2002, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application to increase natural gas rates in its Black Hills service territory. The application seeks an increase in rates in the approximate amount of \$2,173,380 or approximately 5.8%. On January 16, 2003, the Commission suspended the proposed schedule of rates for 90 days beyond January 30, 2003. On April 1, 2003, Commission Staff recommended that the suspension of the tariff be further extended for 60 days.

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.

At its April 1, 2003, meeting, the Commission considered this matter. MDU concurred with Staff's recommendation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the extension sought by Commission Staff. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be further suspended for 60 days pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 8th day of April, 2003.

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>Delaine Kolbo</u>
Date:	<u>4/9/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman



GARY HANSON, Commissioner