

Service Date: December 22, 1987

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
Of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. to)	
establish a Super compressibility)	DOCKET NO. 87.10.78
Minimum Factor.)	ORDER NO. 5315

INTERIM ORDER

1. On October 28, 1987, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) filed to revise the Special Terms and Conditions sections of all retail and transportation gas tariffs. The revision serves to establish a minimum usage prior to the application of the Supercompressibility factor.

2. The filing was made because at the present time MDU's computerized Customer Information System (CIS), i.e., billing system, is not programmed to apply the supercompressibility factor in the calculation of customers' bills. Thus, each of these accounts must be handbilled. The reprogramming of the CIS to accommodate the supercompressibility factor will be implemented in the future. However, in the interim, the Company requests the option to waive the application of the supercompressibility factors

on hand billed accounts where monthly billed volumes are 250 Mcf or less. The Company holds a cost savings will result.

3. The Commission finds no reason to dispute MDU's concern, at this time, and approves of the filing on an interim basis. A final decision on the filing will ensue from a future gas rate design filing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Applicant, Montana-Dakota Utilities Company, furnishes natural gas service to consumers in Montana, and is a "public utility" under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's rates and operations. Section 69-3-102, MCA, and Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 3, MCA.

3. The Commission concludes that the grant of an interim order is just, reasonable, and within the discretion granted by Section 69-3-304, MCA.

ORDER

THEREFORE The Montana Public Service Commission Orders that:

1. Montana-Dakota Utilities Company is granted authority on an interim basis to revise its rates 60, 70, 81, 82, 85, 90 and 97, to establish a minimum usage prior to the application of the supercompressibility factor, in accordance with its application dated October 26, 1987.

2. Montana-Dakota is to file revised tariffs reflecting this change.

3. The interim relief granted in this Order is to be effective upon Commission approval of the revised tariff schedules.

Done in Open Session at Helena, Montana, this 17th day of December, 1987 by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Purcell
Acting Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.