

Service Date: July 15, 2013

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) REGULATORY DIVISION
Of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.)
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.,) DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100
for Authority to Establish Increased Rates for)
Natural Gas Service)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) will conduct a public hearing in the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), a Division of Montana-Dakota Resources Group, Inc., for approval of increased natural gas delivery rates for service to its Montana customers. **The hearing will commence on August 5, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the Best Western Clocktower Inn, 2511 1st Ave. North, Billings, MT 59101 and continue from day to day, as necessary.**

On September 26, 2012, MDU filed its Application for Approval for Authority to Establish Increased Natural Gas Delivery Service Rates and Allocated Cost of Service and Rate Design (Application) with the Commission, seeking approval of increased natural gas delivery service rates for its Montana customers. MDU's proposed rates would provide an additional \$3,457,412 of annual revenue, a 5.9 percent overall increase. For residential customers the impact on the distribution portion of the bill would be a 7.9 percent increase in rates.

The Commission granted an interim rate increase on April 11, 2013, pending further review of this application. The interim rate resulted in an increase of 1.55 percent for residential customers using 10 dkt per month of natural gas, or \$0.91 per month.

The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is provided for in Title 69, MCA. The applicable law includes provisions of Title 69, MCA, and corresponding administrative rules of the Commission. The hearing itself will be conducted as a contested case hearing pursuant to Title 2, Ch. 4, MCA (MAPA); ARM Title 38, Ch. 2 (Commission procedural rules); and any prior orders of the Commission which may bear on the issues presented. The hearing is for the

purpose of receiving technical evidence (testimony and exhibits) with respect to this Docket and public comment for consideration by the Commission. Testimony submitted at hearing is subject to cross-examination.

Any person may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. The Montana Consumer Counsel with offices at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, Montana 59620-1703, telephone (406) 444-2771, is available and may be contacted to assist and represent the interests of the consuming public in this matter.

Anyone needing an accommodation for a physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend or participate in the hearing should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6199 at least one week prior to the hearing. The Commission will make every effort to accommodate individual impairments.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman
BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner