MONTANA-DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-7900

February 19, 2013

Mr. Robert Nelson
Montana Consumer Counsel
111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B
PO Box 201703
Helena, MT 59620-1703

Re: General Gas Rate Application
Docket No. D2012.9.100

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. electronically submits its responses to the Montana Consumer Counsel's data requests dated January 11, 2013 and February 4, 2013. Responses to the following requests are attached:

MCC-149-Revised	MCC-179	MCC-184	MCC-189
MCC-175	MCC-180	MCC-185	MCC-190
MCC-176	MCC-181	MCC-186	MCC-191
MCC-177	MCC-182	MCC-187	MCC-192
MCC-178	MCC-183	MCC-188	MCC-193

This completes all outstanding data responses.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Mulkern

Rita A. Mulkern
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments
cc: Service List

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED JANUARY 11, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-149 RE: ACCOUNT 390 COMMON
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Please identify each time in the last 20 years when the Company retired one of its general office structure in Account 390 Common Plant, or terminated a lease and moved to a new location. For each such instance, identify the dollar level of retirements, a description of what was retired, along with corresponding cost of removal and net salvage.

Response:

Please see Attachment A.

Please see Revised Attachment A for the updated retirements for Account 390. Montana-Dakota inadvertently misstated the salvage on the Schuchart Building in its original response.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
MCC-149 Ten Largest General Plant Structures Retirements
Common 390 Account
As of December 31, 2012

Building	Location	Year Retired	390 Account Balance	Cost of Removal	Salvage
Schuchart Building	Bismarck, ND	07/31/01	3,302,689.44	0.00	(3,028,920.86)
Billings Office Building	Billings, MT	12/31/06	368,352.37	4,000.00	(330,000.00)
Bismarck Dist. Office Building	Bismarck. ND	11/30/09	534,298.00	38,904.00	(526,443.80)
Sheridan Office Building	Sheridan, WY	12/31/04	983,302.83	4,500.00	(638,829.00)
Forsyth Office Building	Forsyth, MT	05/31/96	139,236.18	627.00	(67,504.37)
Gettysburg Office Building	Gettysburg, SD	05/31/96	21,826.80	99.64	(7,533.00)
Glendive Warehouse	Glendive, MT	11/30/99	311,956.52	3,088.93	(23,000.00)
Glendive Office	Glendive, MT	12/31/95	147,380.00	562.00	(51,715.84)
Hebron Office	Hebron, ND	12/31/95	15,391.18	520.00	(13,010.00)
Ray Office	Ray, ND	09/30/99	44,257.16	0.00	(5,000.00)
Terry Office	Terry, MT	12/31/95	37,836.34	259.00	(19,401.10)
Total			5,906,526.82	52,560.57	(4,711,357.97)

Revised Response No. MCC-149
Attachment A
Page 1 of 1

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-175 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-148
WITNESS: ROBINSON

For each building listed in response to MCC-148, please identify the Company's current plans to retire the facility. For any building that the Company current has plans for retirement, provide all associated documents supporting expected future retirement expectations.

Response:

Montana-Dakota has no plans to retire any of the structures referenced in Response No. MCC-148.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-176 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-147
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-147, the Company states that it does not allocate costs between additions and retirements when replacement activity occurs, and that costs are directly assigned to retirement and additions accounts by work orders. Regarding the Company's statement, please provide the specific activities directly assigned to cost of removal and to additions when a replacement of a main or a replacement of a service occurs. The response should specifically identify each of the activities performed, along with the expected cost of such activities and all support and justification demonstrating why each activity charged to cost of removal is not more appropriately assigned to the cost of the new replacement installation. Further, provide all underlying studies, documents, etc. justifying and supporting the decision to classify any activity and corresponding cost as cost as removal rather than as a cost of the new addition.

Response:

Each replacement of natural gas main and service line typically requires removing various surfaces and digging to get to the line to purge the gas and either cut and cap or remove the pipe and related facilities such as valves. Damaged pipe is typically removed. All labor, materials, and equipment to accomplish the retirement tasks of the old facilities are charged to the retirement account of the replacement work order.

The addition of new pipe on a replacement project may require digging a new trench and/or directional bore in a new location. All labor, materials, and equipment used to install the new pipe are charged to the addition account of the replacement work order.

Costs can vary significantly depending on various ground conditions, time of year, and the elements such as weather, location of facilities, and type/size of pipe.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-177 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-139
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-139, the Company states it performs an estimation of vintage level survivors based on both Development Survivor routines with the SPR data and more recent detailed line item records from the Company's Continuing Property Records. Regarding the Company's statement, provide the actual and estimated age data for Accounts 376 and 380, identifying which items of information were utilized, and specifically how, in the calculation for Accounts 376 and 380. Further, provide the Development Survivor routines on electronic medium in Excel readable format to the extent such are available in Excel. If not available in Excel, provide the information in hard copy and in its native electronic format. Further, provide all other documentation, assumptions, and information reviewed and/or relied upon in sufficient detail to permit replication of the Company's estimates for Accounts 376 and 380.

Response:

The actual balances for the simulated accounts are contained within the data provided in Response No. MCC-135. The simulated balances were calculated using the vintage gross additions, proposed Iowa curves, and related average service lives.

The Simulated Plant Record Method was the primary input for estimating the average service life parameters for Accounts 376 and 380. In addition, vintage level survivors were developed for individual sub account categories of Accounts 376 and 380 during the 2001 depreciation study. Those detailed calculations, performed more than ten years ago, are no longer available. In subsequent periods, efforts have been completed to continue to develop longer range actuarial files. The vintage sub-account files were also used to calculate the December 31, 2008 average remaining lives. The estimated average service life parameters and future net salvage percent for each property group gives consideration to the overall range of data recent experience.

With regard to the service life parameters, given the nature of the utility property contained in each property group in which quality property is placed in service with the expectation that large quantities of retirements are not anticipated shortly after being place in service, the estimated mode of survivor curve tends to be focused on more right mode or higher sub-script curves.

In Response No. MCC-135, Montana-Dakota provided a complete copy of the historic depreciation database. The SPR is a tool among various items that are reviewed to identify the estimated average service life for each of the applicable property groups.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-178 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-149
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-149, the Company provided a listing of office buildings that it retired in the past 20 years along with the level of cost of removal and gross salvage incurred. Please provide all reasons the Company believes the level of gross salvage and cost of removal obtained historically for the buildings listed is not indicative of the expected cost of removal and gross salvage that may be incurred at the time of retirement of its existing general plant buildings identified in response to MCC-148. Further, provide all workpapers, assumptions, and information reviewed and/or relied upon necessary to fully support the position taken.

Response:

The 35 year average life estimated for Common Plant Structures and improvements is quite common within the gas industry and is consistent with the Company's actual experience. Conversely, the 20 percent net salvage historical experienced for the overall period, and higher during several more recent years for Common Plant, is totally inconsistent with industry experience as well as that experienced by the Company during numerous earlier years. That is, during earlier years, the Company routinely experienced considerable levels of negative salvage.

Such recent years' gross salvage experience was related to 2009 gas salvage from the sale of the Spearfish, South Dakota office due to a consolidation of operations. Also in 2009 the common operation Bismarck Office was sold due to consolidation of the office into the separate Bismarck Service Center facility. In 2012 there was another consolidation of gas operations in which the Company sold the Jamestown Office and consolidated the staff in the separate Jamestown warehouse facility.

In the mid to late 1990's, the Company closed offices in many of its smaller communities and sold the buildings. In the last decade, the Company's practice was to consolidate its district/region offices and operations into one building and then sell the office building. As a result of the closings/consolidations, far less of such activity is anticipated in the future. It is anticipated that during future periods, greater focus will be on rehabilitating and/or maintaining facilities. Such a scenario would likely result in increased levels of interim component retirements and higher levels of cost of removal due to increased care required in the process of upgrading existing facilities.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-179 **RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-155**
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-155, the Company claims that it does not have available in its fixed assets systems the requested information. At this time, please identify to the best of the Company's ability the different generations of plastic pipe it installed as well as the approximate years each different generation of plastic pipe was installed and when it ceased placing each generation of plastic pipe in service corresponding to plant in Account 376.2 – Distribution Plastic Mains. Further,
provide all bases for the response.

Response:

Montana-Dakota has only used PE as the material for its plastic mains and services in Montana. The PE formulations have changed significantly over the years. Montana-Dakota first started installing PE pipe in the late 1960's and early 1970's in its Districts. This first PE plastic pipes were from Dupont LDIW Aldyl "A" PE 2306, and they were installed up until approximately early1973. The "Standard" formula Dupont Adyl "A" was installed from 1973 to 1984, and "Improved" Dupont Adyl "A" was installed from 1984 -1985 when Montana-Dakota switched totally to other 2406 yellow pipe MDPE materials from various manufactures. Montana-Dakota does have some HDPE materials in service and some areas had a very brief time frame of installing orange 2306 Plexco PE in the 1984 – 1985 date ranges. Montana-Dakota has never used PVC in mains or services in Montana.

An approximate breakdown of mains in Montana is:

Pre-1973 LDIW Adyl A Dupont Mains - 183,484'

"Standard" 2306 Adyl A Dupont Mains - 1,582,769' (1973-1984)

Post 1984 2406 MDPE yellow (various) - 2,784,358'

Below is an approximate breakdown of the number of services: The services are an estimate of the total number of services using date ranges of total footage:

Pre-1973 LDIW Adyl A Dupont Services – 4,600

"Standard" 2306 Adyl A Dupont Services – 16,100 (1973 – 1984)

Post 1984 2406 MDPE yellow (various) - 29,650

Montana-Dakota did not document and record information for each pipe section

installed as to the specific manufacture or PE characteristics. It is based on knowledge of subject matter experts and conservative estimates when products were purchased and charged in each operating district of the Company. It is also dependent on unknowns such as when material turnover resulted in a complete change to a particular pipe material. Montana-Dakota is currently moving to Bimodal PE with superior plastic characteristics.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-180 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-156
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-156, the Company claims that it does not track steel mains by bare, coated, or wrapped for investment in Account 376.1 – Distribution Steel Mains. At this time please identify the different types of steel mains the Company has placed in service, when each separate type of steel main was placed into service to the best of the Company's knowledge, and when it no longer installed each such type of main.

Response:

The types of steel pipe at Montana-Dakota is difficult to determine as pipe was only mapped as bare and coated in most cases and the history of the different coatings used also varied among operating areas of the Company. Typically mill wrapped type coatings were used up until approximately the late 1960's to early 1970's. Extruded poly or PE type coatings were used during the years after mill wrap pipe and today the standard is fusion bond epoxy coatings on steel pipes.

The Company has very little below ground bare steel in the pipeline system in Montana. 3.918 miles of bare steel main is currently listed in the 2011 Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) 7100 Annual Report of Distribution and much of this is above ground in various stations, such as town border stations and district regulator stations. Montana-Dakota carried out an active bare steel pipe replacement capital project beginning around 1993 that has replaced most of the bare steel pipe in the system. If any bare steel pipe is found in the system from unknown or mapping/record issues it is typically scheduled for replacement. 50 bare steel services were reported in the 2011 Montana DOT 7100 Annual Report of Distribution.

The estimated typical steel pipe coatings found in the Montana system are:

400 miles of mill wrap coated mains
20,000 services in the mill wrap coating years

300 miles of extruded poly type coatings
5,000 services in the extruded poly type coatings

50 miles of fusion bond epoxy coatings
2,500 service with fusion bond epoxy coatings

These are estimates as Montana-Dakota did not track coating type on the map features and various operating areas used different types of coated pipe at different times.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-181 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-157
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-157, the Company claims it cannot identify the level of retirements by year associated with bare, wrapped, coated steel mains set forth in Account 376.1. At this time, provide the dollar level of retirements by year associated with each different type and/or size of main set forth in Account 376.1 – distribution Steel Mains that the Company can identify. The information should be provided on electronic medium in Excel readable format. Further, provide all bases for the response.

Response:

Please see Response No. MCC-135. The requested data is identified in the Excel file entitled 'D08_mu_376_380_by_subaccount_actuarial'.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-182 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-145 AND -154
WITNESS: ROBINSON

In response to MCC-153 and 154 requesting identification of other utilities with life estimates greater than a certain value, the Company responded in part by saying it does not have a comprehensive list of other companies. At this time, provide the requested information for the utilities the Company does have, whether the list is comprehensive or not.

Response:

Please see Response No. MCC-152 for a range of industry service lives.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-183 RE: SECTION 5 GRAPHS
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Regarding the graphs set forth in Section 5 for the Gas Division Depreciation Study, please provide the actual annual balance, as well as the simulated balance by year, by account, both on hard copy and on electronic medium in Excel readable format. Further, provide the underlying calculations that support each simulated value.

Response:

The actual balances for the simulated accounts are contained within the data provided in response No. MCC-135. Please see the enclosed CD for the file entitled 'Exhibit MCC-183' for the simulated balances (the files are not available in Excel). The simulated balances were calculated using the vintage gross additions, proposed Iowa curves, and related average service lives.

Please see Response No. MCC-135 for Montana-Dakota's complete copy of the historic depreciation database. The SPR is a tool among various items that are reviewed to identify the estimated average service life for each of the applicable property groups. The advocate or others can simply run as many analyses and calculations as desired to arrive that their conclusions. The Company's study output is not needed by other parties to determine if the life estimates for each of the property groups are reasonable and appropriate. Any and all depreciation consultants have software systems for analysis of historical depreciation databases.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-184 RE: ACCOUNT 390 – COMMON PLANT
WITNESS: ROBINSON

As it relates to Account 390 – Common Plant, please identify what retired and the reason for retirement corresponding to the $502,496 level of retirement set forth on page 5-2 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study in Exhibit_(EMR-2) for the age interval 0.5-1.5. The response should further specifically demonstrate and fully support why retirements of such magnitude at such an early age are indicative of the existing plant in service.

Response:

The overwhelming majority (99 plus percent) of the $502,496 is related to the investment in the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Corporate office building that was bought and sold within a relatively short time period (6 years – bought in 1994 and sold to MDU Resources in 2001). At the time, it was decided to create a separate company under MDU Resources to hold the assets of the building and its contents. Montana-Dakota originally had on its books100 percent of the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents. When the new company, Future Source, was formed, Montana-Dakota sold the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents to Future Source at net book value.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-185 RE: ACCOUNT 390 – COMMON PLANT
WITNESS: ROBINSON

As it relates to Account 390 – Common Plant, please identify what retired and the reason for retirement corresponding to the $998,763 level of retirement set forth on page 5-2 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study in Exhibit_(EMR-2) for the age interval 3.5-4.5. The response should further specifically demonstrate why retirements of such magnitude at such an early age are indicative of the existing plant in service.

Response:

The overwhelming majority (99 plus percent) of the $998,763 is related to the investment in the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Corporate office building that was bought and sold within a relatively short time period (6 years – bought in 1994 and sold to MDU Resources in 2001). At the time, it was decided to create a separate company under MDU Resources to hold the assets of the building and its contents. Montana-Dakota originally had on its books100 percent of the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents. When the new company, Future Source, was formed, Montana-Dakota sold the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents to Future Source at net book value.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-186 RE: ACCOUNT 390 – COMMON PLANT
WITNESS: ROBINSON

As it relates to Account 390 – Common Plant, please identify what retired and the reason for retirement corresponding to the $1,803,313 level of retirement set forth on page 5-2 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study in Exhibit_(EMR-2) for the age interval 6.5-7.5. The response should further specifically demonstrate why retirements of such magnitude at such an early age are indicative of the existing plant in service.

Response:

The overwhelming majority (99 plus percent) of the $1,803,313 is related to the investment in the MDU Resources Group, Inc. Corporate office building that was bought and sold within a relatively short time period (6 years – bought in 1994 and sold to MDU Resources in 2001). At the time, it was decided to create a separate company under MDU Resources to hold the assets of the building and its contents. Montana-Dakota originally had on its books100 percent of the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents. When the new company, Future Source, was formed, Montana-Dakota sold the MDU Resources Corporate office building and its contents to Future Source at net book value.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-187 RE: ACCOUNT 391.10
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Regarding the assumed 15R3 life-curve combination for common plant Account 391.10 – Office Furniture and Equipment as set forth on page 2-8 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study at Table 7, please provide all support and justification of the assumed 15R3 life-curve combination.

Response:

In accordance with general industry practice, the Company has been using general plant amortization for its general plant accounts including Accounts 391.1, 391.2, 391.3, 391.4, 391.5, 393, 394.1, 394.3, 394.4, 397.1, 397.2, 397.3, 397.5, 394.8, and 398 since the early 2000's. Each of the various plant accounts contain only modest levels of individual investments which are comprised of larger quantities of small investment amounts that are difficult to track unit retirements. At the time of moving to general plant amortization, the available historical data along with general industry lives were assessed in developing the general plant amortization periods. Subsequent to moving to the general plant amortization procedure, retirements occur only when the property achieves the age equal to the general plant amortization period. Accordingly, specific life related retirement data no longer exists for the property group.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-188 RE: ACCOUNT 391.50
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Regarding the assumed 5R3 life-curve combination for common plant Account 391.50 – Computer Equipment – Other as set forth on page 2-21 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study at Table 7, please provide all support and justification of the assumed 5R3 life-curve combination.

Response:

Please see Response No. MCC-187.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-189 RE: ACCOUNT 391.30
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Regarding the assumed 5R3 life-curve combination for common plant Account 391.30 – Computer Equipment – PC as set forth on page 11-19 of the Common Plant Depreciation Study at Table 7, please provide all support and justification of the assumed 5R3 life-curve combination.

Response:

Please see Response No. MCC-187.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-190 RE: ACCOUNT 391.10
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Please provide the actual dollar level of retirement in Account 391.10 – Common Plant Office Furniture & Equipment by year, for the period 2009 through 2012. To the extent the retirement information is available on a vintage basis, provide the information in such manner. The information should be provided both on hard copy and on electronic medium in Excel readable format.

Response:

Please see Attachment A and the enclosed CD for the file entitled 'MCC 190 191 192 Retirements.xlsm'.

	Retirement Year				
Vintage	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
1994		$ (325,004.21)	$ (126,974.16)		$ (451,978.37)
1995				(71,858.61)	(71,858.61)
1996		(2,199.08)			(2,199.08)
Total	$ -	$ (327,203.29)	$ (126,974.16)	$ (71,858.61)	$ (526,036.06)

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-191 RE: ACCOUNT 391.30
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Please provide the actual dollar level of retirement in Account 391.30 – Computer Equipment – PC by year, for the period 2009 through 2012. To the extent the retirement information is available on a vintage basis, provide the information in such manner. The information should be provided both on hard copy and on electronic medium in Excel readable format.

Response:

Please see Attachment A and the enclosed CD for the file entitled 'MCC 190 191 192 Retirements.xlsm'.

Vintage	Retirement Year 2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
2002	$ (5,687.24)				$ (5,687.24)
2003	(117,798.92)	(197,115.64)			(314,914.56)
2004	(99,845.72)	(246,481.49)			(346,327.21)
2005	(5,970.11)	(282,545.11)	0.02		(288,515.20)
2006	(3,473.32)	(2,579.34)		(427,062.97)	(433,115.63)
2007	(3,880.65)			(8,241.05)	(12,121.70)
2008	(720.86)				(720.86)
2009					-
2010		(24,191.25)			(24,191.25)
Total	$ (237,376.82)	$ (752,912.83)	$ 0.02	$ (435,304.02)	$ (1,425,593.65)

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-192 RE: ACCOUNT 391.50
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Please provide the actual dollar level of retirement in Account 391.50 – Computer Equipment – Other by year, for the period 2009 through 2012. To the extent the retirement information is available on a vintage basis, provide the information in such manner. The information should be provided both on hard copy and on electronic medium in Excel readable format.

Response:

Please see Attachment A and the enclosed CD for the file entitled 'MCC 190 191 192 Retirements.xlsm'.

Vintage	Retirement Year 2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
2003	$ (22,143.79)				$ (22,143.79)
2004	(8,732.18)				(8,732.18)
2005		(130,826.48)			(130,826.48)
2006			(789,648.27)	(5,159.10)	(794,807.37)
2007				(15,864.87)	(15,864.87)
Total	$ (30,875.97)	$ (130,826.48)	$ (789,648.27)	$ (21,023.97)	$ (972,374.69)

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA CONSUMER COUNSEL
DATA REQUEST
DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013
DOCKET NO. D2012.9.100

MCC-193 RE: RESPONSE TO MCC-135
WITNESS: ROBINSON

Please provide a detailed explanation of each type of value presented in response to MCC-135 Excel attachments. The response should clearly identify and explain code values, and what positive versus negative values represent (e.g., a negative addition is a correction of a prior reported addition, etc.).

Response:

Please see Attachment A for the depreciation database record layout legend.

AUS Consultants
PCD & VS DataBase

ɛ Data Format for Microsoft Excel

Positive transaction amounts for the following transaction types are assumed as shown below; Transaction Codes 0, 1, 2, and 7 are reduction to Plant in Service by definition; a negative sign is not utilized unless the transaction is a reversing entry. Enter all data as numeral, not as labels.

Transaction Codes:

0-Regular Retirement
1-Reimbured Retirement
2-Sale
3-Transfer
4-Beginning of Interval Transfer
5-Acquisition
6-Adjustment
7-Outlier Retirement (Reserve for AUS)
8-Ending Balance
9-Gross Additions

*** From AUS File: GL.ACCOUNTS (COMPANY CHART OF ACCOUNTS)**
**** Company/Division Code Legend for Each Data File (See Instructions Below)**
***** From AUS File: LOCATION.CODES**

								PLANT IN SERVICE		
* ACCT. NUMBER	**Co/Div CODES	*** LOC Code	TRANS CODES	TRANS YR	INST YR	ADJ TRANS YR	RET YR	TRANSACTION AMOUNT	MEMO	CONTROL
	XYZUT	1020	9	1991	1991			5,100,032.00	Acct 30100	
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1991	1956			18,100.00	Buildings Location #102	
30100	XYZUT	1020	9	1992	1992			7,032,400.00	Beg Bal==>	$35,897,521.42
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1955			20,000.00	Additions	$12,132,432.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1991			20,875.21	Retirements	$58,975.21
30100	XYZUT	1020	3	1992	1957			-40,000.00	Transfers	-$40,000.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	9	1992	1992			54,698.35	Adjustments	$0.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1989			4,257.00	Ending Bal	$47,930,978.21
30100	XYZUT	1020	6	1992	1955			1,000.00		
30100										
	XYZUT	9999	9	1991	1992			621,824.11	Acct 30200	
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1991	1955			26,936.09	Mass Assets	
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1991	1974			18,128.72	Beg Bal==>	$12,221,547.27
30200	XYZUT	9999	6	1991	1957			8,643.18	Additions	$1,022,081.62
30200	XYZUT	9999	9	1992	1992			400,257.51	Retirements	$159,825.23
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1957			38,291.57	Transfers	$10,000.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1958			45,221.47	Adjustments	$8,643.18
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1971			22,547.33	Ending Bal	$13,102,446.84
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1974	1991		-3,869.28		
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1989			11,457.89		
30200	XYZUT	9999	3	1992	1957			10,000.00		
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1955	1991		-1,111.22		
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1957			2,222.66		

AUS Consultants
PCD & VS DataBase

30200

ACCOUNT NUMBER
This field is reserved for the account number for which the plant accounting data is being provided. These account numbers should coincide with each of the account numbers listed in the "GL Account" file accompanying these instructions. If a new account is being initialized, add the account number and description on the GL.Account listing.

COMPANY/DIVISION CODE
This field is reserved for the COMPANY/DIVISION CODE - Alpha code assigned by AUS staff for idendification of the specific company data files as follows:

(Company Name) Code

LOC CODE
This field is reserved for the LOCATION CODE --if the account is analyzed by location, enter the three digit code per attached list of AUS "LOCATION CODES" - if a new location, notify AUS. If no AUS "Location Codes" file is available, develop a complete list of structures, and discuss location number assignments with AUS. If the account is not analyzed on a "by location" basis, enter 999.

TRANSACTION CODE
This field is reserved for the TRANSACTION CODE; enter transaction code with each transaction and total the amount column - see example.

TRANSACTION YEAR
Enter the TRANSACTION YEAR; This is the accounting year in which the investment activity was charged to the company's books.

INSTALL YEAR
This field is reserved for the original INSTALLATION YEAR of the transaction (i.e. Addition, Retirement, Adjustment,Transfer) which is being booked. Relative to Additions, if the installation in service year is a year other than the transaction year, enter here. Otherwise, the Transaction Year and Installation Year for additions are typically the same. Each transaction must

AUS Consultants
PCD & VS DataBase

include an INSTALLATION YEAR.

ADJ TRANS YEAR
This field must be utilized if transaction (i.e. retirement, transfer or adjustment) is a correction of a prior year entry. Enter the year in which the original journal entry was booked (See Example).

TRANSACTION AMOUNT
Amount of the transaction, recorded to the plant account. This data field allows for twelve (12) digits and is defined as dollars and cents allowing for a maximum positive amount of $9,999,999,999.99. If the amount is opposite the normal entry (i.e. reverse retirement), a minus sign to the left of the first digit in the transaction amount field is required. Transaction Codes 0, 1, 2 and 7 are retirements, (reductions to plant in service by definition), therefore a minus sign is not utilized unless they are reversing entries.

INSTRUCTIONS:
Enter the information and total the amounts of each group of ADDITIONS, RETIREMENTS, TRANSFERS, etc. and check to accounting controls. Use Excel SUM() Function to get totals for each group, this can be done as the data is entered.

Exhibit MCC-200-Depr Template (2 of 3)

AUS Consultants
PCD & VS Depreciation System

Transaction Code Description

Code	Description
0	Regular Retirement - All retirements from plant which occur in the course of normal operations for causes that are to be covered by depreciation accruals. Typically, these include all causes other than those listed below.
1	Reimbursed Retirement - Retirement for which the company received payment approximating or exceeding the depreciated original cost of the property, and such payment was record as a credit to the depreciation reserve account. Reimbursed retirements are usually related to extraordinary circumstances such as fire or other accidents for which the loss is covered by insurance, and to property moved or abandoned due to the request or requirements of a outside party, for which the company is reimbursed.
2	Sale - Transfer of ownership or property for which the company received payment approximating or exceeding the depreciated original cost, and the property would not have been retired at or near that time if the sale had not occurred. Sales generally relate to circumstances in which the property has not actually been retired, but continues in public service following the transaction. Sales in lieu of abandonment are classified as regular retirements.
3	Transfer - Transfer of property between accounts or property groups. Use for both transfers - in and transfer - out, and for intraaccount transfers.
4	Beginning of Interval Transfer - Transfer of property between accounts or property groups that is to be considered as occurring at the beginning rather than the end of the age interval. Includes major transfers of property into the account or property group, such as to initiate an account or to substantially increase the size of an existing account.
5	Acquisition - Purchase, trade, or similar transactions where property previously in public service was acquired.
6	Adjustment - Used for control purposes in plant accounting data, and for adjustments and special appropriations.
7	Outlier Retirement - a retirement that occurs under unusual circumstances such that the analyst deems it appropriate that it be excluded from the retirements used in the service life or salvage study.
8	Ending Balance - The balance of plant in service as of December 31 (or end of fiscal year) of the most recent year included in the experience Band, or as of a specified calculation date.
9	Gross Additions - Placement of plant in service as replacement of plant retired or as additions to plant in service.

NOTE: Corrections should be assigned the same code as the transaction being corrected.

AUS Consultants
PCD & VS DataBase
Net Salvage Data Format for Microsoft Excel

Positive transaction amounts for the following transaction types are assumed as shown below; Transaction Codes 0, 1, 2, and 7 are reduction to Plant in Service by definition; a negative sign is not utilized unless the transaction is a reversing entry. Enter all data as numeral, not as labels.

Transaction Codes:

0-Regular Retirement
1-Reimbured Retirement
2-Sale
3-Transfer
4-Beginning of Interval Transfer
5-Acquisition
6-Adjustment
7-Outlier Retirement (Reserve for AUS)
8-Ending Balance
9-Gross Additions

*** From AUS File: GL.ACCOUNTS (COMPANY CHART OF ACCOUNTS)**
**** Company/Division Code Legend for Each Data File (See Instructions Below)**
***** From AUS File: LOCATION.CODES**

* ACCT. NUMBER	**Co/Div CODES	*** LOC Code	TRANS CODES	TRANS YR	INST YR	ADJ TRANS YR	RET YR	PLANT IN SERVICE TRANS AMOUNT	DEPRECIATION RESERVE RET AMT	GROSS SALVAGE AMOUNT	COST OF REMOVAL AMOUNT
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1991	1956			18,100.00	18,100.00	128.00	1,146.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1955			20,000.00	20,000.00	285.00	2,100.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1991			20,875.21	20,875.21	329.00	1,873.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	0	1992	1989			4,257.00	4,257.00	99.00	640.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	1	1992	1989			4,485.34	4,485.34	2,500.00	981.00
30100	XYZUT	1020	2	1992	1989			6,130.13	6,130.13	1,700.00	20.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1991	1955			26,936.09	26,936.09	2,831.00	4,877.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1991	1974			18,128.72	18,128.72	1,767.00	2,962.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1957			38,291.57	38,291.57	3,512.00	3,777.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1958			45,221.47	45,221.47	3,844.00	4,345.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1971			22,547.33	22,547.33	1,206.00	1,999.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1974	1991		-3,869.28	-3,869.28	-332.00	-1,423.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1989			11,457.89	11,457.89	128.00	
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1955	1991		-1,111.22	-1,111.22		
30200	XYZUT	9999	0	1992	1957			2,222.66	2,222.66	144.00	865.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	1	1992	1989			4,485.34	4,485.34	2,500.00	981.00
30200	XYZUT	9999	2	1992	1989			6,130.13	6,130.13	1,700.00	20.00

Note: Company's routinely do not have the original installation year relative to the retirements that generated its gross salvage or cost of removal

AUS Consultants

PCD & VS DataBase

Net Salvage Data Format for Microsoft Excel

ACCOUNT NUMBER

This field is reserved for the account number for which the plant accounting data is being provided. These account numbers should coincide with each of the account numbers listed in the "GL Account" file accompanying these instructions. If a new account is being initialized, add the account number and description on the GL.Account listing.

COMPANY/DIVISION CODE

This field is reserved for the COMPANY/DIVISION CODE - Alpha code assigned by AUS staff for identification of the specific company data files as follows:

(Company Name) Code

LOC CODE

This field is reserved for the LOCATION CODE --if the account is analyzed by location, enter the three digit code per attached list of AUS "LOCATION CODES" - if a new location, notify AUS. If no AUS "Location Codes" file is available, develop a complete list of structures, and discuss location number assignments with AUS. If the account is not analyzed on a "by location" basis, enter 999.

TRANSACTION CODE

This field is reserved for the TRANSACTION CODE; enter transaction code with each transaction and total the amount column - see example.

TRANSACTION YEAR

Enter the TRANSACTION YEAR; This is the accounting year in which the investment activity was charged to the company's books.

INSTALL YEAR

This field is reserved for the original INSTALLATION YEAR of the transaction (i.e. Addition, Retirement, Adjustment,Transfer) which is being booked. Relative to Additions, if the installation in service year is a year other than the transaction year, enter here. Otherwise, the Transaction Year and Installation Year for additions are typically the same. Each transaction must include an INSTALLATION YEAR.

AUS Consultants

PCD & VS DataBase

Net Salvage Data Format for Microsoft Excel

ADJ TRANS YEAR

This field must be utilized if transaction (i.e. retirement, transfer or adjustment) is a correction of a prior year entry. Enter the year in which the original journal entry was booked (See Example).

TRANSACTION AMOUNT

Amount of the transaction, recorded to the plant account. This data field allows for twelve (12) digits and is defined as dollars and cents allowing for a maximum positive amount of $9,999,999,999.99. If the amount is opposite the normal entry (i.e. reverse retirement), a minus sign to the left of the first digit in the transaction amount field is required. Transaction Codes 0, 1, 2 and 7 are retirements, (reductions to plant in service by definition), therefore a minus sign is not utilized unless they are reversing entries.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Enter the information and total the amounts of each group of ADDITIONS, RETIREMENTS, TRANSFERS, etc. and check to accounting controls. Use Excel SUM() Function to get totals for each group, this can be done as the data is entered.