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October 23, 2015

Mr. Thorvald A. Nelson
Holland & Hart, LLP
6380 South Fiddlers Green Circle, Suite 500
Greenwood Village, Colorado 8011

Re: General Electric Rate Application
Docket No. D2015.6.51

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Enclosed please find Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s responses to the Montana Large Customer Group's data requests LCG-036 - LCG-045 dated October 12, 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tamie A. Aberle'.

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments
cc: Service List

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Docket No. D2015.6.51
Service List

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**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-036 RE: MDU Employee Count

In Excel format, please provide MDU's actual full time equivalent ("FTE") employee count by month, beginning in January 2012 and continuing through the most recent date available.

Response:

Please see Response No. LCG-036 Attachment A on the enclosed CD.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51

LCG-037 RE: MDU Employee Start Date/Adjustment No. 7

For each Adjustment No. 7 employee listed in workpaper G-56 with a start date of Q3 2015, please provide the actual employment start date. If the employee has not yet commenced work, please provide an updated start date.

Response:

Power Production:

Environmental Scientist	11/30/2015	Interview process underway
Engineer	12/14/2015	Interview process underway

Glendive Turbine:

Operator Technician	12/2015	Process not yet started
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Diamond Willow Wind:

Wind Technician	12/2015	Process not yet started
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Cedar Hills Wind:

Wind Technician	12/2015	Process not yet started
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**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-038 RE: Adjustment No. 8 Employees

- a. Please provide the number of FTE employees represented by Adjustment No. 8.**

- b. In Excel format, beginning in the first month when employees were in place at Heskett III and continuing monthly through the most recent date available, please provide the actual number of FTE employees in place at Heskett III.**

Response:

- a. One FTE.

- b. Heskett Generating Units I, II and III are all sited at the same general location. Employees are not specifically assigned to a generating unit. They are deployed to each unit as required, by each employee's area of expertise. The FTE represented in Statement G, Page 9, Adjustment No. 8 is an incremental position required for all three Heskett generating stations due to increased workloads as a result of Heskett Unit III being placed in service. This FTE was employed on February 17, 2015, but is not specifically placed at Heskett Unit III.

No Excel spreadsheet is provided.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
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LCG-039 RE: Adjustment No. 9 Employees

Please refer to workpaper G-57. Please confirm that the employees listed under L&C: Mechanic Welder and 2 Operators, refer to employees represented by Adjustment No. 9.

Response:

Yes, the total company labor increase reflected on Statement G, Page 10, Adjustment No. 9 of \$227,971 is supported by the three employee additions listed under "L&C" on Statement Workpapers, Statement G, page G-57.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-040 RE: Adjustment No. 9 Employees

- a. Please provide the number of FTE employees represented by Adjustment No. 9.**
- b. Are there any Lewis & Clark RICE Unit and MATS employees yet in place? If so, in Excel format, beginning in the first month when Lewis & Clark RICE Unit and MATS employees were in place and continuing monthly through the most recent date available, please provide the actual number of FTE Lewis & Clark RICE Unit and MATS employees in place.**

Response:

- a. Three FTE employees. See response to LCG-039.
- b. Interviews for the Lewis & Clark Mechanic Welder position are completed. It is anticipated that the position will start on November 2, 2015. One of the two additional operator positions started on October 20, 2015 and interviews are being set up for the second position. It is anticipated that the second operator position will be filled in November 2015.

The Lewis & Clark Generating Station, the RICE unit and the MATS controls are all sited at the same general location. Employees are not specifically assigned to an area. They are deployed as required, by each employee's area of expertise. These FTEs represent incremental positions required at the overall Lewis & Clark location due to increased workloads as a result of the RICE unit and MATS controls being placed in service. None of these FTEs will be specifically placed at the RICE unit or the MATS control.

No Excel spreadsheet is provided.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
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LCG-041 RE: MDU Employees and Thunder Spirit

Are there any employees yet in place at Thunder Spirit? If so, in Excel format, beginning in the first month when Thunder Spirit employees were in place and continuing monthly through the most recent date available, please provide the actual number of FTE employees in place at Thunder Spirit.

Response:

Subsequent to the rate case filing, the Company reviewed its wind technician requirements and decided to hire one manager level individual and one wind technician as presented in Statement G, Page 11, Adjustment No. 10. The individual hired for the manager position was employed on October 19, 2015, and although not specifically assigned to Thunder Spirit, it is a new position for the Company. The Company has posted the remaining wind technician position and fully expects the interview and hiring process to be complete before the end of 2015.

No Excel spreadsheet is provided.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-042 RE: MDU Employees and Big Stone AQCS

Has the Company made any pro forma adjustments associated with additional employees for the Big Stone AQCS? If so, please cite to these adjustments in the Company's filing and provide the number of FTE employees represented by each adjustment.

Response:

No. Big Stone generating station is operated by Ottertail Power Company based in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Montana-Dakota owns 22.7% of Big Stone. The Company did not make a pro forma adjustment associated with additional employees for the AQCS project.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
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THIRD DATA REQUEST
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LCG-043 RE: Fuel and Purchased Power

With the exception of Adjustments 7 through 10, please identify each pro forma adjustment proposed by MDU that is related an addition or reduction to employment levels relative to the historical 2014 test year. Please provide the number of FTE employees represented by each adjustment.

Response:

The only pro forma adjustments which included additional employees were Adjustments 7 through 10. There were no reductions to employees relative to the 2014 historical test year.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-044 RE: Major Overhaul of MDU Facilities/MCC-036

Please refer to the Company's response to MCC Data Request 36.

- a. For each year 2007 through 2014 listed in this response, please provide the actual major overhaul expenses incurred for each applicable generation unit, by FERC account, on a Total Company and Montana jurisdictional basis, in Excel format with formulas intact.**
- b. For 2015, please provide the actual major overhaul expense incurred to-date for Big Stone and Lewis & Clark, separately, by FERC account, on a Total Company and Montana jurisdictional basis, in Excel format with formulas intact.**
- c. For 2015, please provide the most recent estimate of 2015 major overhaul expense for Big Stone and Lewis & Clark, separately, by FERC account, on a Total Company and Montana jurisdictional basis, in Excel format with formulas intact.**

Response:

- a. Expenses are not specifically tracked for major overhauls. However, the increase in costs related to major overhauls can be identified on the attached Excel file labeled Response No. LCG-044 Attachment A Major Overhaul Costs. The highlighted areas reflect major overhauls.
- b. See Response a. The 2015 outage for Lewis & Clark was scheduled early in the year. As a result of preparations for the outage and long lead times for supplies and parts, 2014 costs reflect some increase related to the 2015 outage.
- c. See the attached Excel file labeled Response No. LCG-044 Attachment B Big Stone 2015 Estimate. Overhaul expenses for Lewis & Clark are not budgeted by FERC Account.

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
MONTANA LARGE CUSTOMER GROUP
THIRD DATA REQUEST
DATED OCTOBER 12, 2015
DOCKET NO. D2015.6.51**

LCG-045 RE: Major Overhaul of MDU Generation Units

For each applicable generation unit, please provide the major overhaul expense included in the Company's proposed revenue requirement by FERC Account, on a Total Company and Montana jurisdictional basis, in Excel format with formulas intact. Please cite to the locations in the Company's filing where these expenses are detailed quantitatively and integrated into the revenue requirement.

Response:

The major overhaul expenses included in the proposed revenue requirement are intended to reflect the expense associated with a typical major overhaul. The Company's generation fleet experiences approximately one major overhaul outage per year. See Response LCG-044 a.

The major overhaul expenses specifically included in the proposed revenue requirement are detailed on Statement Workpapers, Schedule G, Page G-78, Big Stone Plant. These overhaul expenses are included in the Big Stone pro forma adjustments on Statement G, Page 14, Adjustment No. 13. See the attached Excel file labeled Response No. LCG-045 Attachment A Big Stone.

Any other incidental major overhaul costs included in the proposed revenue requirement would primarily be reflected in Statement G, Page 13, Adjustment No. 12, Subcontract Labor and Statement G, Page 15, Adjustment No. 14, Materials.