

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.  
Natural Gas Rate Increase  
Application**

**Case No. PU-399-02-183**

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
and  
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

**March 12, 2003**

On December 18, 2002, the Public Service Commission issued an order in this proceeding. The Commission agreed that Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (MDU) submit a depreciation study for review by January 31, 2003 as a continued issue in this proceeding, subject to the standard and customary contested case process with all parties having rights of discovery, testimony, rebuttal testimony, hearing and briefing. MDU's depreciation study was to include gas and common plant facilities. Any resulting change in depreciation expense ordered by the Commission at the conclusion of the review will be reflected in rates on a prospective basis.

On January 31, 2003, MDU filed its depreciation study.

The issues in this proceeding are:

1. What is the value of MDU's property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?
2. What is the appropriate treatment of plant retirement costs?
3. What rates and charges are necessary to provide a just and reasonable rate of return on MDU's property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?

A hearing in this proceeding will be held beginning **April 22, 2003, at 9 a.m. CDT, in the Commission Hearing Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota**. The hearing is open to the public, but participation is limited to the parties named herein and Commission staff.

The final day for completion and service upon MDU and other parties of prepared testimony and exhibits is April 1, 2003. The final day for service of rebuttal testimony is April 14, 2003.

For more information, contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or braille materials please notify Jon Mielke, Executive Secretary.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**Susan E. Wefald  
Commissioner**

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**Tony Clark  
President**

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**Leo M. Reinbold  
Commissioner**