

March 17, 2003

Mr. Allen C. Hoberg
Office of Administrative Hearings
1707 North 9th Street, Lower Level
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Continued Hearing
Case No. PU-399-02-183
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application

Dear Mr. Hoberg:

Enclosed is a request for an administrative law judge in the above case. The Commission issued an order in this proceeding on December 18, 2002. The Commission agreed that Montana-Dakota Utilities Company submit a depreciation study for review as a continued issue in this proceeding.

The Commission has scheduled a hearing for April 22, 2003, beginning at 9 a.m. (CST) in the Commission's Hearing Room, 12th Floor, State Capitol, Bismarck. The administrative law judge will serve as a procedural law judge, a court reporter will be present, and the hearing will be tape recorded. A copy of the depreciation study is enclosed.

Please provide the Commission with a copy of any filings issued by your office in this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William W. Binek
Hearing Administrator

/sls
Enclosure

c: Daniel S. Kuntz, Attorney (Letter only)
Douglas Schultz, Attorney (Letter only)
Don Ball, MDU (Letter only)