

April 5, 2004

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

Re: Case No. PU-04-97
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 has scheduled a hearing for August 31, 2004, beginning at 9 a.m. (CDT) 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 case 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: Don Ball, MDU
Douglas W. Schulz
Daniel S. Kuntz