



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Allen C. Hoberg
DIRECTOR

September 25, 2012

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Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RECEIVED

SEP 25 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Thank you for your September 24, 2012, request of the designation of an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing in the matter of Montana Dakota Utilities, PU-11-631. I hereby designate Patrick J. Ward to be assigned as a contract administrative law judge to conduct the hearing in regard to this matter. Because the contract administrative law judge will not be making recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law, or issuing a recommended order, the person or persons who will be making the final administrative decision in regard to this matter (*i.e.*, the commission) must be in attendance at the hearing.

Please send all additional relevant documents (correspondence, and other pleadings and documents) to the designated contract administrative law judge in care of Zuger Kirmis & Smith, P O Box 1695, Bismarck, ND 58502-1695 Please contact the contract administrative law judge prior to scheduling the hearing. Because the contract administrative law judge is requested to conduct the hearing only, the agency must give proper notice of the hearing.

Your request has been assigned OAH File No. 20120382. Please include this number on all future documents and correspondence filed for this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Hoberg
Director

ACH/lmw

cc: Daniel S. Kuntz, Montana Dakota Utilities
Patrick J. Ward, Administrative Law Judge