

July 9, 2013

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Re: Case No. PU-13-____
Application for Approval of Gas Meter
Testing Program Rate 105

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith submits for Commission approval an original and seven (7) copies of the Company's Application requesting approval of Gas Meter Testing Program Rate 105. The proposed new tariff outlines the protocol the Company will follow in complying with Sections 69-09-01-14 and 69-09-01-16 of the North Dakota Century Code applicable to the testing, and subsequent reporting, of gas meters and represents modifications to the Company's current gas meter testing program. The Company is requesting approval of the following tariffs, provided as Exhibit 1, to be effective August 1, 2013.

- Table of Contents - 3rd Revised Sheet No. 1
- General Provisions Rate 100 – 3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.17
- Gas Meter Testing Program Rate 105 Original Sheet Nos. 47 and 47.1

The Company's current gas meter testing program was approved effective May 1, 1973 in Case No. I-5083. Each year a report summarizing the results of these tests is filed with the Commission. Any deficiencies found are highlighted and a plan specifying resolution of the deficiencies is noted in the report. The current testing program has never been set forth as part of the Company's natural gas tariff. Montana-Dakota is proposing to do so with this revised testing program.

Montana-Dakota believes the benefits achieved, through the changes proposed herein to the Company's gas meter testing program, further align the interests of all parties in meeting the requirements for the testing of gas meters under the North Dakota Century Code.

Please refer all inquiries regarding this is filing to:

Ms. Tamie Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Also, please send copies of all written inquiries, correspondence and pleadings to:

Daniel S. Kuntz
Associate General Counsel
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650

Montana-Dakota submitted a check in the amount of \$50.00 pursuant to Section 49-05-05 of the North Dakota Century Code on June 14, 2013. This payment will cover the filing fee associated with this filing.

Montana-Dakota respectfully requests that this filing be accepted as being in full compliance with the filing requirements of this Commission.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

cc: Daniel S. Kuntz

the jurisdiction of and regulation by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) under NDCC Title 49 as amended. Montana-Dakota's Certificate of Incorporation and amendments thereto have been previously filed with the Commission and such Certificate and Amendments are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. Montana-Dakota provides natural gas service to approximately 99,000 customers in North Dakota.

III. Current Gas Meter Testing Program

The North Dakota Century Code contains two sections applicable to the testing of gas meters:

Section 69-09-01-14. Periodic Tests. All service meters shall be tested and adjusted at least once in every eight years, or in accordance with a plan approved by the Commission.

Section 69-09-01-16. Meter Test Records. 1.) Each utility shall keep a record of meter tests for at least two years. The record shall show the identification of the meter, reading of the meter before the test, and accuracy after adjustment, if adjustment is made. 2.) Each utility shall annually file with the Commission a summary report of meter tests made during the year. This report shall show the number of meters tested, the number of meters found to be accurate within the allowable limits, the number of meters found to be fast, and the number of meters found to be slow.

Montana-Dakota's current gas meter testing program was approved May 1, 1973 in Case No. I-5083 and is included herein as Exhibit 2. The Company's meter test

program classifies meters into one of three test categories: new, periodic, and random. Test categories are then further broken down into lots according to installation dates. At least the minimum number of meters is tested to determine lot acceptability. Montana-Dakota files annually with the Commission the results of its meter testing program. Any deficiencies are noted and a plan specifying resolution of the deficiencies is noted in the report.

IV. Revised Gas Meter Testing Program

The Company is now proposing an updated gas meter testing program and proposes to include the new gas meter testing protocol in Gas Meter Testing Program Rate 105, included herein as Exhibit 1. Following is a description of the proposed gas meter testing program:

- Gas meters will continue to be placed into one of the three existing meter test categories: new, periodic, and random.
- *New Meters:* A five percent sampling of all new meters received will be tested. If the sampling is found to be unsatisfactory, all meters will be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, or the shipment will be returned to the manufacturer.

The Company will also retain all test data received from gas meter suppliers concerning the meter shipment. Montana-Dakota is proposing no changes to the testing of new gas meters from that currently authorized.

- *Random:* All active meters, 650 cubic feet per hour and smaller, will be collectively pooled into a single Company-wide test program. The population of

meters tested will be randomly selected from meters located throughout North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The random selection of meters will be taken from a population of meters that have been in service longer than ten years, from initial installation or from the last test date. The meters tested within the random test program will include meters selected via a computer generated random selection process and meters pulled from customers' premises in correlation with service technicians being on-site for other service-related work.

A number of changes are being proposed to the testing of gas meters included in the random test category: (1) Currently all meters with ratings less than 630 cubic feet per hour are tested within the random test category. The Company is proposing to now include meters with ratings up to 650 cubic feet per hour within the random test category. (2) Gas meter testing is conducted and reviewed independently for Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming at this time. The Company is proposing to expand the selection and testing process from which Montana-Dakota randomly selects and tests meters to include meters from throughout the Company's service area. (3) The time interval from initial installation or length of time since meters last tested, at present, is eight years. The Company is proposing to extend this time to ten years. (4) All meters to be tested today are selected from a computer generated random selection process. The Company is proposing to expand the selection of meters to also include meters from customers' premises where a service

technician was on-site for other service related work.

- *Periodic.* The Company will test all active meters rated greater than 650 cubic feet per hour at an interval of at least once every ten years. Presently meters are included that have a rating greater than 630 cubic feet per hour and tested at an interval of once every eight years. Montana-Dakota is also proposing to remove the inclusion of leather diaphragm meters from the periodic test program. The Company no longer has leather diaphragm meters in its inventory or active in service.
- A meter test year of July 1 through June 30 with a filing date of the Company's findings by December 1. The current test year is April 1 through March 31.

The Company has included as Exhibit 3 a table highlighting the changes between the authorized gas meter testing program and the program proposed in this Application.

Montana-Dakota believes the above highlighted changes to the Company's gas meter testing program offer a number of benefits:

- Currently the Company operates separate meter test programs in each state Montana-Dakota provides natural gas service. A single test program provides uniformity throughout the Company's service territory in the testing and analyzing of meter data as well as the shared knowledge of meter-related issues.
- A larger meter population from which to select meters provides Montana-Dakota with a greater statistical base for which to determine meter accuracy.

- The increase in length of time from initial installation to inclusion of meter(s) in the test program to ten years takes into consideration that historically the Company has not observed meter errors within the first ten years of installation.
- The increase to ten years also serves to reduce customer frustration with meter exchanges due to the inclusion of the customer's meter in the random test program. While the Company strives to provide superior customer service at all times, meter exchanges often frustrate customers as the Company steps through the process of stopping and starting gas service in order to complete the gas meter exchange. The stop and start of gas service usually involves the Company making an appointment with the customer and then a Company technician entering the home to relight the affected appliances.
- Montana-Dakota has successfully operated a single Company-wide electric meter test program for fifteen years.
- A new timeframe will allow for the better alignment of the timing of meter exchanges, due to the inclusion of meters in the gas meter test program, and the seasonal weather experienced throughout the Company's service territory. This new timeframe allows for the majority of all meters to be exchanged and tested in the warmer months when natural gas use is at its lowest for most customers.

V. Conclusion

Montana-Dakota believes the benefits achieved through the changes proposed herein to the Company's gas meter testing program, and outlined in Gas Meter Testing

Program Rate 105, further align the interests of both the Company and the customer in meeting the requirements for the testing of gas meters under the North Dakota Century Code. The revised natural gas meter testing program will minimize disruption in service to customers while not compromising the accuracy of installed meters.

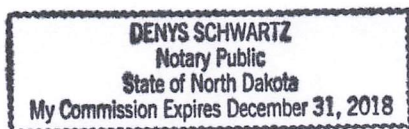
Montana-Dakota respectfully requests that the Commission approve its application for a revised gas meter testing program outlined in Gas Meter Testing Program Rate 105.

Dated this 9th day of July 2013.



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of July 2013.



Denys Schwartz
Burleigh County, North Dakota
My Commission Expires 12/31/2018

Of Counsel:

Daniel S. Kuntz
Associate General Counsel
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street

Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7

3rd Revised Sheet No. 1

Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 1

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Date Filed: July 9, 2013

Effective Date:

Issued By: Tamie Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.17
Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 42.17

GENERAL PROVISIONS Rate 100

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- (6) Tampering with meter or pressure regulator that affects the accurate registration of gas usage.
 - (7) Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company.
 - (8) Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company as a result of a new customer turning gas on without the proper connect request.
- (b) In the event that there has been unauthorized use of service, customer shall be charged for:
- (1) Time, material and transportation costs used in investigation.
 - (2) Estimated charge for non-metered gas.
 - (3) On-premise time to correct situation.
 - (4) Any damage to Company property.
- (c) Customer service so disconnected shall be reconnected after a customer has furnished satisfactory evidence of compliance with Company's rules and conditions of service, and paid all charges as hereinafter set forth in this procedure.
- (1) All delinquent bills, if any.
 - (2) The amount of any Company revenue loss attributable to said tampering.
 - (3) Expenses incurred by the Company in replacing or repairing the meter or other appliance costs incurred in preparation of the bill, plus costs as outlined in number 20.b above.
 - (4) Reconnection fee applicable.
 - (5) A cash deposit, the amount of which will not exceed the maximum amount determined in accordance with Commission Rules.
21. SEE ALSO THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS:
- Rate 102 – Residential Rate for Regular Employees
 - Rate 105 – Gas Meter Test Program
 - Rate 119 – Interruptible Gas Service Extension Policy
 - Rate 120 – Firm Gas Service Extension Policy
 - Rate 124 – Service Lines

Date Filed: July 9, 2013

Effective Date:

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Director of Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
Original Sheet No. 47

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 105

Page 1 of 2

Applicability:

This rate schedule specifies the protocol to be followed for the testing of gas meters in compliance with Sections 69-09-01-14 and 69-09-01-16 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Testing Process for New Meters

1. Meter supplier(s) shall provide test data for all new meters.
2. A sampling of 5% of new meter lots received will be tested at full load and light load. If unsatisfactory, all meters in the shipment shall be tested, and repaired if necessary, or the shipment shall be returned to the manufacturer.

Testing Process for Meters in Service

1. This meter test schedule shall not apply to meters larger than 650 cubic feet per hour (cfh). Such meters shall be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, at a periodic interval of at least once in ten years.
2. All active meters, 650 cfh and smaller, will be combined into a single random test program. The population of meters shall come from the states of North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.
3. At the time the random selection is made, meters more than ten years old and active meters that have not been tested in the last ten years will be placed into an installation class defined model installation date lot (lot) to be part of a random population for testing.
4. All active meters will be assigned to lots on the basis of installation date. Meters shall be divided into lots based on manufacturer, type, and last install date in five year groups. The minimum number of samples taken from each lot will be as specified by Military Standard 414, Sample Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variables for Percent Defective, inspection level IV with specification limits of + 2.0%.

Date Filed: July 9, 2013

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Issued By: Tamie Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

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Original Sheet No. 47.1

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 105

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5. The meters tested within the random test program will include meters selected via a computer generated random selection process and meters pulled from a customer's premise in correlation with service technicians being on-site for other service related work.
6. Lot acceptability will be determined by the standard deviation method based on single sample, double specification limit, variability unknown, for an acceptable quality level of 15%. The following actions will be taken based on the test results:
 - a. A meter for which the sample is satisfactory will remain in service.
 - b. A meter lot for which the sample fails may remain in service if it passed the previous year and if no more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%.
 - c. A meter lot for which the sample fails will be evaluated if the lot failed the previous year or if more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%
 - i. If evaluation determines the group is homogeneous, then the entire group will be removed.
 - ii. If group is not homogeneous and a subset of the group is found defective, that subset will be removed. Removal of a failed lot of meters or failed subset of lot will be removed from service for testing and repair within one year.

Reporting

Montana-Dakota shall file reports of its meter test results by December 1 for the meter testing conducted between June 30 of the previous year and July 1.

Date Filed: July 9, 2013

Effective Date:

Issued By: Tamie Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:

Tariffs Reflecting Proposed Changes



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
2nd Revised Sheet No. 1
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 1

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Issued By: Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:



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Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
2nd Revised Sheet No. 42.17
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GENERAL PROVISIONS Rate 100

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 - (4) Reconnection fee applicable.
 - (5) A cash deposit, the amount of which will not exceed the maximum amount determined in accordance with Commission Rules.
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State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
Original Sheet No. 47

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 105

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Applicability:

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Testing Process for New Meters

1. Meter supplier(s) shall provide test data for all new meters.
2. A sampling of 5% of new meter lots received will be tested at full load and light load. If unsatisfactory, all meters in the shipment shall be tested, and repaired if necessary, or the shipment shall be returned to the manufacturer.

Testing Process for Meters in Service

1. This meter test schedule shall not apply to meters larger than 650 cubic feet per hour (cfh). Such meters shall be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, at a periodic interval of at least once in ten years.
2. All active meters, 650 cfh and smaller, will be combined into a single random test program. The population of meters shall come from the states of North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming.
3. At the time the random selection is made, meters more than ten years old and active meters that have not been tested in the last ten years will be placed into an installation class defined model installation date lot (lot) to be part of a random population for testing.
4. All active meters will be assigned to lots on the basis of installation date. Meters shall be divided into lots based on manufacturer, type, and last install date in five year groups. The minimum number of samples taken from each lot will be as specified by Military Standard 414, Sample Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Variables for Percent Defective, inspection level IV with specification limits of + 2.0%.

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Original Sheet No. 47.1

GAS METER TESTING PROGRAM Rate 105

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5. The meters tested within the random test program will include meters selected via a computer generated random selection process and meters pulled from a customer's premise in correlation with service technicians being on-site for other service related work.
6. Lot acceptability will be determined by the standard deviation method based on single sample, double specification limit, variability unknown, for an acceptable quality level of 15%. The following actions will be taken based on the test results:
 - a. A meter lot for which the sample is satisfactory will remain in service.
 - b. A meter lot for which the sample fails may remain in service if it passed the previous year and if no more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%.
 - c. A meter lot for which the sample fails will be evaluated if the lot failed the previous year or if more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%
 - i. If evaluation determines the group is homogeneous, then the entire group will be removed.
 - ii. If group is not homogeneous and a subset of the group is found defective, that subset will be removed. Removal of a failed lot of meters or failed subset of lot will be removed from service for testing and repair within one year.

Reporting

Montana-Dakota shall file reports of its meter test results by December 1 for the meter testing conducted between June 30 of the previous year and July 1.

Date Filed:

Effective Date:

Issued By: Tamie Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Case No.:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Authorized Gas Meter Testing Program
(Approved in Case No. I-5083, May 14, 1973)

1. The policy of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for testing meters, pursuant to Sections 69-09-01-14 and 69-9-01-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, is as follows:
2. This meter test schedule shall not apply to meters with leather diaphragms and to meters of 1,000 cubic feet per hour or greater capacity. Such meters shall continue to be tested and adjusted or repaired, if necessary, at a periodic interval of at least once in eight years as required by the present Rule 13.
3. New meters received from a manufacturer shall be subjected to testing on a random sample basis of five percent (5%) of the total received, but never less than five (5) meters, and must be found satisfactory before the shipment is released for use. If unsatisfactory, all meters in the shipment shall be tested, and repaired if necessary, or the shipment shall be returned to the manufacturer.
4. Meters removed from service because of damage, meters that do not pass gas or that pass gas but do not register, and meters that are otherwise suspect as to accuracy, shall be tested and adjusted before reinstallation.
5. All other active meters will be assigned to lots on the basis of years since last test year installation and type of meter construction. The meters to be sampled will be chosen at random by computer for a sample to be taken each year from each lot. The minimum number of samples taken from each lot will be as specified by Military Standard No. 414 for inspection by variables, inspection level IV with specification limits of + 2.0%.
6. Lot acceptability will be determined by the standard deviation method based on single sample, double specification limit, variability unknown, for an acceptable quality level of 15%.
 - a. A meter lot for which the sample is satisfactory will remain in service.
 - b. A meter lot for which the sample fails may remain in service if it passed the previous year and if no more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%.
 - c. A meter lot for which the sample fails will be removed if the lot failed the previous year or if more than 10% of the sample registers over 102%. Removal of a failed lot of meters will be removed from service for testing and repair within one year.

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Authorized Gas Meter Testing Program
Proposed Gas Meter Testing Program
Comparison**

	Authorized 1/	Proposed
New Meters Test:		
No changes proposed		
Random Meter Test:		
Maximum Size of Meter Tested	< 630 CFH 2/	<= 650 CFH
Meter Test Pool	State Specific	Company-wide
Time between Testing	8 years	10 years
Test Selection	All randomly computer generated	Combination of randomly computer generated and service tech on-site
Lot determination and size	Years since last test installation and type of meter construction 3/	Manufacturer, type, and last install date with 5 years age maximum to a lot
Periodic Meters Test:		
Leather diaphragm meters	Tested as part of periodic meters test program	N/A as no longer have meters with leather diaphragms
Minimum Size of Meter Tested	>= 630 CFH 2/	> 650 CFH
Time between Testing	8 years	10 years
Other:		
Meter Test Year	April 1 – March 31	July 1 – June 30

1/ Case No. I-5083, May 14, 1973.

2/ Authorized is 1,000 CFH (630 CFH has been utilized since 2000).

3/ 5 years is currently included in a lot.