

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana Dakota Utilities Co., a Division
of MDU Resources Group, Inc.
Natural Gas Service Rate Increase
Application**

Case No. PU-15-90
OAH File No. 20150091

SUMMARY OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

July 29, 2015

Appearances

Daniel Kuntz, Associate General Counsel, MDU Resources Group, Inc., P.O. Box 5650, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650 on behalf of Montana Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. ("MDU") Also present from MDU was Tamic Aberle.

Illona Jeffcoat Sacco, Public Service Commission General Counsel, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480 on behalf of the Public Service Commission Advisory Staff. Also present from the Public Service Commission Advisory Staff were Patrick Fahn and Julie Prescott.

John Schuh, Special Assistant Attorney General, 600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480 on behalf of the Public Service Commission Advocacy Staff. Also present from the Public Service Commission Advocacy Staff was Victor Schock.

John B. Coffman, Attorney at Law, 871 Tuxedo Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63119-2044 on behalf of Intervenor AARP. Mr. Coffman appeared telephonically.

Lt. Col. John C. Degnan, Attorney at Law, AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC, Utility Law Field Support Center 139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1, Tyndall Air Force Base, 32403 on behalf of Intervenor Federal Executive Agencies (FEA). Also present from FEA was paralegal Sgt. Garcia. Lt. Col Degnan and Sgt. Garcia appeared telephonically.

Wade C. Mann, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, 2911 North 4th Street, Suite 303, Bismarck, ND 58503.

Summary

A prehearing conference was held July 24, 2015, at which time counsel for MDU, Commission Advocacy Staff, Commission Advisory Staff and each of the Intervenor addressed

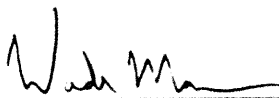
prehearing scheduling and other preliminary matters relating to the public hearing on MDU's application for a natural gas service rate increase scheduled to take place on August 31, 2015. In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-03-04, a summary of the results of the prehearing conference is hereby set forth as follows:

1. MDU previously submitted pre-filed testimony from Sara J. Cardwell in this matter. Ms. Cardwell is no longer employed with MDU. Tamie Aberle will be testifying in the place of Ms. Cardwell at the hearing. MDU has agreed to submit pre-filed testimony from Tami Aberle to replace the pre-filed testimony of Ms. Cardwell.
2. Commission advocacy staff will submit the pre-filed testimony of its three intended witnesses by the close of business on August 7, 2015. Advocacy staff has identified its three witnesses as Mike Diller, Aaron Rothschild and Victor Schock.
3. Intervenor FEA will submit the pre-filed testimony of its witnesses by August 7, 2015. FEA anticipates having one or two witnesses.
4. Intervenor AARP will submit the pre-filed testimony of any witnesses by August 7, 2015. AARP has not determined at this time whether it will call any witnesses.
5. The parties agreed that any rebuttal testimony to the initial pre-filed testimony of the applicant, advocacy staff and intervenors will be filed by the close of business on August 21, 2015.
6. The parties agreed that any surrebuttal testimony will be filed by the close of business on August 27, 2015.
7. Each of the parties consented to electronic service and agreed to serve copies of all pre-filed testimony electronically on all parties in addition to filing with the Commission.

8. With one exception, all of the parties and their witnesses committed to appearing in person for the hearing. There is a possibility that MDU may seek permission to allow one of its witnesses to appear telephonically. If the need arises for any telephonic testimony, the requesting party will move for permission to allow the telephonic testimony when/if the need becomes apparent.
9. AARP and FEA intend to submit data requests by July 27, 2015.
10. Counsel for AARP will follow-up and review a series of e-mails (numbering approximately 60 at the time of the pre-hearing conference) sent to the Commission through an AARP e-mail address on behalf of individual members of AARP and will take steps to remedy any resulting ex-parte communications in accordance with the Commission's administrative rules.
11. Attorney David Tshchider who moved the admission of Attorney John B. Coffman shall not be required to appear in any further proceedings or participate in any subsequent filings in this matter.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 29th day of July 2015.

State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission

By: 

Wade C Mann
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
2911 North 14th Street – Suite 303
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503
Telephone: (701) 328-3200

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the **SUMMARY OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE** was mailed, by electronic mail, on the 29 day of July 2015, to:

Daniel S. Kuntz
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
dan.kuntz@mduresources.com

John B. Coffman
John B. Coffman, LLC
John@JohnCoffman.net

John C. Degnon
AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC
John.Degnan@us.af.mil

Juan J. Godinez
AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC
Juan.Godinex.2@us.af.mil

Thomas A. Jernigan
AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC
Thomas.Jernigan.2@us.af.mil

Paul Sanderson
Evanson Sanderson, PC
psanderson@esattorneys.com

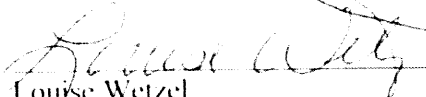
John Schuh
Legal Counsel
Public Service Commission
jschuh@nd.gov

Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel
Public Service Commission
ijs@nd.gov

and that the original **SUMMARY OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE** was mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol on the 29 day of July 2015, to:

John Hamre
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Wade C. Mann, Administrative Law Judge


Louise Wetzel