

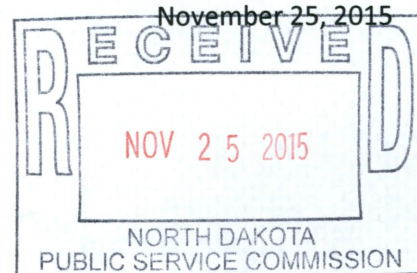


**UTILITIES CO.**

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 222-7900

Mr. Aaron Morman, Pipeline Safety Program Manager  
ND Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



RE: Case No. GS-15-711

This letter will act as Montana-Dakota Utilities response to the Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) issued in the above referenced case.

After reviewing the NOPV, Montana-Dakota's response is as follows:

Montana-Dakota crews inspected Valve #637 on Ave. C and Ward Road on April 29, 2014. The crews found the valve to be broken and not operable. The nearest alternate isolation valve is located twelve blocks east of Valve #637. This valve was operable and would have been used in case of an emergency. Valve #637 was replaced on September 30, 2015. The reason for the delay was crew and material availability, and the location of the valve in the street requiring that the restoration of the hard surface could only be done during warmer weather.

Montana-Dakota requests an opportunity to further discuss the NOPV and this response to that NOPV with you at your earliest convenience.

However, as required by 49 CFR §190.211, and as referenced in your letter dated November 2, 2015 Montana-Dakota further requests an informal hearing regarding this matter. The issue Montana-Dakota intends to raise at such hearing is that there were alternate means available of isolating the Distribution System if necessary.

Sincerely,

Pat Darras  
Vice President of Operations  
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

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Response to Nov. 2, 2015 NOPV

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
Pat Darras, VP of Operations