



Timothy J. Dawson  
DIRECTOR

**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

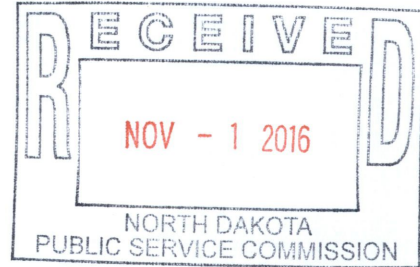
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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October 31, 2016

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



Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Thank you for your October 28, 2016, 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 Co. / PU-16-666. 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. 20160597. Please include this number on all future documents and correspondence filed for this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.**

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Dawson  
Director

TJD/lmw

cc: Karl Liepitz, counsel for Montana Dakota Utilities Co.  
Patrick J. Ward, Administrative Law Judge