

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Great Plains Natural Gas Co.
Gas Service
Tariff and Rates**

Case No. PU-17-75

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

November 8, 2018

On February 3, 2017, Great Plains Natural Gas Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (Great Plains) filed an application to revise its Natural Gas Tariff Volume No. 2 in compliance with the Commission's Order in Case No. PU-16-604.

On March 1, 2017, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until April 15, 2017 for receiving written comments and hearing requests. No response was received. The Notice identified the issues to be considered:

1. What rates and charges are necessary to provide a just and reasonable rate of return on Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?
2. Are Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s proposed rate schedules designed in such a manner that they result in a basis of charge to its customers that is just and reasonable without discrimination?

On December 29, 2017, Commission Advocacy Staff (Advocacy Staff) filed an agreement between Advocacy Staff and Great Plains for extension of rate suspension in order to address tax reform issues related to implementation of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

On January 10, 2018, in Case No. PU-17-490, the Commission opened an investigation into the effects of federal tax reform, H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill Act of 2017 (TCJA), on North Dakota regulated utilities, and required jurisdictional utilities to file information the impact supporting calculations, and the appropriate regulatory accounting treatment.

On April 20, 2018, Advocacy Staff filed its initial comments in Case No. PU-17-490, including comments on the impact on Great Plains and the instant case.

On October 19, 2018, Great Plains filed a Settlement Agreement between Great Plains and Advocacy Staff intended to resolve all outstanding issues. The Settlement Agreement provides miscellaneous tariff changes and a reduction in natural gas rates to yield an annual revenue decrease of \$168,306 or four percent of Great Plains annual sales revenue. The Settlement Agreement further provides a refund to customers of four

percent of sales revenues collected for service provided beginning with the January 1, 2018 effectiveness of the TCJA and ending with the implementation of new rates.

The issue to be considered in this matter is whether the Settlement Agreement is reasonable and should be approved.

Comments and requests for hearing must be received by **December 12, 2018**. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. If deemed appropriate, the commission can determine these matters without a hearing.

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400 or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or braille materials, please notify the Commission.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
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