



UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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

May 19, 2017

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

Re: Case No. PU-17-123
Application for a Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity to
Construct and Operate a Natural Gas
Distribution Line to serve Clark
Equipment near Gwinner, North Dakota

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., (Montana-Dakota) herewith files an original and seven (7) copies of an original and seven (7) copies of proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the above referenced case.

As discussed at the Informal Hearing held on May 16, 2017 in this matter, Montana-Dakota confirms that the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity requested by the Company is for the entirety of Ransom and Sargent Counties. This has been reflected in the proposed Order attached hereto.

Please contact me with any questions at 701.222.7856 or tamie.aberle@mdu.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tamie A. Aberle', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

Cc: Karl Liepitz

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES)	
CO., a Division of MDU Resources)	Case No. PU-17-123
Group, Inc.)	
Natural Gas System – Ransom &)	
Sargent Counties)	
Public Convenience & Necessity)	

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

May ____, 2017

Appearances

Commissioners Randy Christmann, Julie Fedorchak, and Brian Kroshus.

Karl Liepitz, Assistant General Counsel, P.O. Box 5650, 1200 West Century Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58506-5650 appearing on behalf of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

John M. Schuh, Legal Counsel, Public Service Commission, State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505 appearing on behalf of Public Service Commission Advocacy Staff.

Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco, General Counsel, Public Service Commission, State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, appearing on behalf of the Public Service Commission Advisory Staff.

Preliminary Statement

On March 31, 2017 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (“Montana-Dakota”) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a natural gas system in Ransom and Sargent Counties in North Dakota to provide natural gas service to Clark Equipment Company d/b/a Bobcat Company (“Bobcat”) and other potential customers located along the proposed pipeline route.

Montana-Dakota proposes to construct and operate approximately 21 miles of 12” plastic pipe from a tap on the Alliance Pipeline to Bobcat’s Gwinner, North Dakota facility. Montana-Dakota expects to invest approximately \$13.8 Million in new facilities to serve Bobcat.

On April 13, 2017 the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing providing until May 30, 2017

for receiving written comments or requests for hearing. No comments or hearing requests have been received. The notice provided that the Commission could determine this matter without a hearing if deemed appropriate. The notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Is there a need for the service?
2. Is Montana-Dakota technically, financially and managerially fit and able to provide the service?
3. What is the effect on other public utilities providing similar service?
4. Is the proposed service adequate?

The Commission scheduled an informal hearing to begin May 16th, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. CST in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capital, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, 12th Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505. The Commission held the informal hearing, as scheduled in the Commission Hearing Room, State Capital, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, 12th Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505.

The Commission reviewed the filing and all information provided by Montana-Dakota addressing the issues identified in the Notice and finds:

Findings of Fact

1. Montana-Dakota is a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation, duly authorized to provide natural gas distribution service to retail customers in North Dakota.

2. The natural gas facilities to be constructed by Montana-Dakota will provide natural gas service to Bobcat in an area that is not now served with natural gas. There is a public need and demand for natural gas as a fuel and the best interests of Bobcat and Montana-Dakota will be served by the granting the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

3. Montana-Dakota is technically, financially, and managerially fit and able to provide the service requested.

4. The proposed facilities will not adversely affect other public utilities providing similar service in the area to be served.

5. The proposed service is adequate to meet Bobcat's needs.

From the foregoing Findings of Fact the Commission makes the following:

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction in these proceedings.

2. The Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is subject to approval by the Commission in accordance with Section 49-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code.

From the foregoing the Commission makes the following:

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. Montana-Dakota is issued Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. _____ authorizing the construction and operation of facilities to extend natural gas service to Bobcat's Gwinner, North Dakota facility and other potential customers within the entirety of Ransom and Sargent Counties, North Dakota that may be extended natural gas service pursuant to Montana-Dakota's applicable gas service extension policy.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner

Randy Christmann
Chairman

Brian Kroshus
Commissioner