



UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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

May 18, 2017

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



Re: Tariff Revision Pursuant to 49 CFR Part
192.383 on Excess Flow Valves
Docket No. PU-17-___

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group Inc., herewith requests Commission approval of the proposed revisions to its natural gas tariff to comply with Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR Part 192.383 regarding the installation of excess flow valves (EFV) on existing service lines.

Montana-Dakota requests approval of the following rate schedules provided in Exhibit 1.

- Exhibit 1- Proposed Tariff Sheets (Volume 7)
 - General Provisions Rate 100 Table of Contents
3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.1
 - General Provisions Rate 100 § II. Definitions
3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.3
 - General Provisions Rate 100 § V. General Terms and Conditions
4th Revised Sheet Nos. 42.13-42.14
5th Revised Sheet Nos. 42.15-42.17
3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.18

Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR 192.383 requires natural gas companies to notify customers about the availability of EFV for installation on an existing service line to their home or office. In accordance with the requirement, the Company proposes to revise its tariffs in order to offer customers the option to install an excess flow valve on an existing service line at the customer's request. The customer will be assessed the actual cost of the installation. It is estimated that the cost of a typical installation is approximately \$650, however estimates for cost and time frame for construction will be provided as requested on a case by case basis.

Montana-Dakota has provided the required notice to customers via a bill insert, included as Exhibit 2 and the same information is also available on the Company's website. Montana-Dakota currently installs EFV on all new and replacement service lines in accordance with Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations and this proposed change is applicable only to those customers on existing service lines.

1 **PU-17-196** Filed: 5/18/2017 Pages: 24
Tariff revision adding excess flow valve provisions

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.
Tamie Aberle, Director of Reg. Affairs

Montana-Dakota currently has approximately 94,150 service lines that would be affected by this proposed change.

Please refer all inquiries regarding this filing to:

Ms. Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
tamie.aberle@mdu.com

Also, please send copies of all written inquiries, correspondence and pleadings to:

Karl Liepitz
Assistant General Counsel
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650
karl.liepitz@mduresources.com

The original and seven (7) copies of this Letter of Transmittal and tariffs have been provided to the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 in accordance with North Dakota Century Code Section 49-05-05 to cover the filing fee associated with this filing.

Montana-Dakota respectfully requests that this filing be accepted as being in full compliance with the filing requirements of this Commission.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Sincerely,



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

cc: K. Liepitz

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.1
Canceling 2nd Revised Sheet No. 42.1

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CUSTOMER – Any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, other organization or government agency supplied with service by Company at one location and at one point of delivery unless otherwise expressly in these rules or in a rate schedule.

DELIVERY POINT – The point at which customer assumes custody of the gas being transported. This point will normally be at the outlet of Company's meter(s) located on customer's premises.

EXCESS FLOW VALVE – Safety device designed to automatically stop or restrict the flow of gas if an underground pipe is broken or severed.

GAS DAY – Means a period of twenty-four consecutive hours, beginning and ending at 9:00 a.m. Central Clock Time.

INTERRUPTION – A cessation of transportation or retail natural gas service deemed necessary by Company.

NOMINATION – The daily dk volume of natural gas requested by customer for transportation and delivery to customer at the delivery point during a gas day.

PIPELINE – The transmission company(s) delivering natural gas into Company's system.

RATE – Shall mean and include every compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental and classification, demanded, observed, charged or collected by the Company for any service, product, or commodity, offered by the Company to the public, and any rules, regulations, practices or contracts affecting any such compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental or classification.

RECEIPT POINT – The intertie between Company and the interconnecting Pipeline(s) at which point Company assumes custody of the gas being transported.

SHIPPER – The party with whom the Pipeline has entered into a service agreement for transportation services.

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Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.13

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11. EXCESS FLOW VALVE – In accordance with Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR 192.383, the Company will install an excess flow valve on an existing service line at the customer's request at a mutually agreeable date. The actual cost of the installation will be assessed to the customer.
12. LATE PAYMENT – Amounts billed will be considered past due if not paid by the due date shown on the bill. An amount equal to 1 percent per month will be applied to any unpaid balance existing if not paid by the due date, provided however, that such amount shall not apply where a bill is in dispute or a formal complaint is being processed. All payments received will apply to the customer's account prior to calculating the late payment charge. Those payments applied shall satisfy the oldest portion of the bill first.
13. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE – A charge of \$15.00 will be collected by the Company for any check for any reason not honored by customer's bank.
14. TAX CLAUSE – In addition to the charges provided for in the gas tariffs of the Company, there shall be charged pro rata amounts which, on an annual basis, shall be sufficient to yield to the Company the full amount of any sales, use or excise taxes, whether they be denominated as license taxes, occupation taxes, business taxes, privilege taxes, or otherwise, levied against or imposed upon the Company by any municipality, political subdivision, or other entity, for the privilege of conducting its utility operations therein.

The charges to be added to the customer's service bills under this clause shall be limited to the customers within the corporate limits of the municipality, political subdivision or other entity imposing the tax.
15. UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICES:
 - (a) The following services will be performed at no charge regardless of the time of performance:
 - (1) Fire and explosions calls.

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- (2) Investigate hazardous condition on customer premises, such as gas leaks, odor complaints, combustion gas fumes.
- (3) Maintenance or repair of Company-owned facilities on the customer's premises.
- (b) The following service calls will be performed at no charge during the Company's normal business hours:
 - (1) Cut-ins and cut-outs.
 - (2) High bills or inadequate service complaints.
 - (3) Location of underground Company facilities and customer-owned gas service lines for contractors, builders, plumbers, etc.
16. UTILITY SERVICES PERFORMED AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS – For service requested by customers after the Company's normal business hours and on Saturday, Sunday, or legal holidays, a charge will be made for labor at standard overtime service rates and materials at retail prices. Customers requesting service after the Company's normal business hours will be informed of the after hour service rate and encouraged to have the service performed during normal business hours.
17. NOTICE TO DISCONTINUE GAS SERVICE – Customers desiring to have their gas service disconnected shall notify the Company during regular business hours, one business day before service is to be disconnected. Such notice shall be by letter, or telephone call to the Company's Customer Service Center. Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays are not considered business days.
18. RECONNECTION FEE FOR SEASONAL OR TEMPORARY CUSTOMER – A customer who requests reconnection of service, during normal working hours, at a location where same customer discontinued the same service during the preceding 12-month period will be charged a reconnection fee as follows:

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Residential - The Basic Service Charge applicable during the period service was not being used and a charge of \$30.00. The minimum will be based on standard overtime rates for reconnecting service after normal business hours.

Non-Residential – The Basic Service Charge applicable during the period while service was not being used. However, the reconnection charge applicable to seasonal business concerns such as irrigation, grain drying and asphalt processing shall be the Basic Service Charge applicable during the period while service was not being used less the Distribution Delivery Charge revenue collected during the period in-service. A reconnection fee of \$30.00 will also apply to reconnections. The minimum will be based on standard overtime rates for reconnecting service occurring after normal business hours.

Transportation customers who cease service and then resume service within the succeeding 12 months shall be subject to a minimum reconnection charge of \$160.00 whenever reinstallation of the required remote data acquisition equipment is necessary.

19. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE FOR NONPAYMENT OF BILLS – All amounts billed for service are due when rendered and will be considered delinquent if not paid by due date shown on the bill. If any customer shall become delinquent in the payment of amounts billed, such service may be discontinued by the Company under the applicable rules of the Commission. The Company may collect a fee of \$30.00 before restoring gas service, which has been disconnected for nonpayment of service bills during normal business hours. Standard overtime rates will apply for services performed after normal business hours when the call to request reconnection of service is received after 12:00 p.m. on a regular work day for reconnection that day.

20. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE FOR CAUSES OTHER THAN NONPAYMENT OF BILLS – The Company reserves the right to discontinue service for any of the following reasons:

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Canceling 4th Revised Sheet No. 42.16

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- (a) In the event of customer use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's equipment or service to others.
- (b) In the event of tampering with the equipment furnished and owned by the Company.

For violation of or noncompliance with the Company's rules on file with the Commission
- (c) For failure of the customer to fulfill the contractual obligations imposed as conditions of obtaining service.
- (d) For refusal of reasonable access to property to the agent or employee of the Company for the purpose of inspecting the facilities or for testing, reading, maintaining or removing meters.

The right to discontinue service for any of the above reasons may be exercised whenever and as often as such reasons may occur, and any delay on the part of the Company in exercising such rights, or omission of any action permissible hereunder, shall not be deemed a waiver of its rights to exercise same.

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prevent discontinuing service without advance notice for reasons of safety, health, cooperation with civil authorities, or fraudulent use, tampering with or destroying Company facilities.

The Company may collect a reconnect fee of \$30.00 before restoring gas service, which has been disconnected for the above causes.

21. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SERVICE – Unauthorized use of service is defined as any deliberate interference such as tampering with a Company meter, pressure regulator, registration, connections, equipment, seals, procedures or records that result in a loss of revenue to the Company. Unauthorized service is also defined as reconnection of service that has been terminated, without the Company's consent.

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- (a) Examples of unauthorized use of service include the following, but are not limited to:
- (1) Bypass piping around meter.
 - (2) Bypass piping installed in place of meter.
 - (3) Meter reversed.
 - (4) Meter index disengaged or removed.
 - (3) Service or equipment tampered with or piping connected ahead of meter.
 - (4) Tampering with meter or pressure regulator that affects the accurate registration of gas usage.
 - (5) Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company. Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company as a result of a new customer turning gas on without the proper connect request.
- (b) In the event that there has been unauthorized use of service, customer shall be charged for:
- (1) Time, material and transportation costs used in investigation.
 - (2) Estimated charge for non-metered gas.
 - (3) On-premise time to correct situation.
 - (4) Any damage to Company property.
- (c) Customer service so disconnected shall be reconnected after a customer has furnished satisfactory evidence of compliance with Company's rules and conditions of service, and paid all charges as hereinafter set forth in this procedure.
- (1) All delinquent bills, if any.
 - (2) The amount of any Company revenue loss attributable to said tampering.
 - (3) Expenses incurred by the Company in replacing or repairing the meter or other appliance costs incurred in preparation of the bill, plus costs as outlined in number 20.b above.
 - (4) Reconnection fee applicable.
 - (5) A cash deposit, the amount of which will not exceed the maximum amount determined in accordance with Commission Rules.

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22. RATE FOR EMPLOYEES – A bill discount may be available for residential use only in a single family unit served by Montana-Dakota to qualifying employees and retirees of MDU Resources and its subsidiaries. The bill shall be computed at applicable rate and amount reduced by 33 1/3 percent.

23. SEE ALSO THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Rate 119 – Interruptible Gas Service Extension Policy

Rate 120 – Firm Gas Service Extension Policy

Rate 124 – New Installation, Replacement, Relocation and Repair of Gas Service Lines

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Case No.:

Tariffs Reflecting Proposed Changes



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State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

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2nd Revised Sheet No. 42.3
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NOMINATION – The daily dk volume of natural gas requested by customer for transportation and delivery to customer at the delivery point during a gas day.

PIPELINE – The transmission company(s) delivering natural gas into Company's system.

RATE – Shall mean and include every compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental and classification, demanded, observed, charged or collected by the Company for any service, product, or commodity, offered by the Company to the public, and any rules, regulations, practices or contracts affecting any such compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental or classification.

RECEIPT POINT – The intertie between Company and the interconnecting Pipeline(s) at which point Company assumes custody of the gas being transported.

SHIPPER – The party with whom the Pipeline has entered into a service agreement for transportation services.

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- ~~11.~~12. LATE PAYMENT – Amounts billed will be considered past due if not paid by the due date shown on the bill. An amount equal to 1 percent per month will be applied to any unpaid balance existing if not paid by the due date, provided however, that such amount shall not apply where a bill is in dispute or a formal complaint is being processed. All payments received will apply to the customer's account prior to calculating the late payment charge. Those payments applied shall satisfy the oldest portion of the bill first.
- ~~12.~~13. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE – A charge of \$15.00 will be collected by the Company for any check for any reason not honored by customer's bank.
- ~~13.~~14. TAX CLAUSE –In addition to the charges provided for in the gas tariffs of the Company, there shall be charged pro rata amounts which, on an annual basis, shall be sufficient to yield to the Company the full amount of any sales, use or excise taxes, whether they be denominated as license taxes, occupation taxes, business taxes, privilege taxes, or otherwise, levied against or imposed upon the Company by any municipality, political subdivision, or other entity, for the privilege of conducting its utility operations therein.
- The charges to be added to the customer's service bills under this clause shall be limited to the customers within the corporate limits of the municipality, political subdivision or other entity imposing the tax.
- ~~14.~~15. UTILITY CUSTOMER SERVICES:
- (a) The following services will be performed at no charge regardless of the time of performance:
- (1) Fire and explosions calls.

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- (2) Investigate hazardous condition on customer premises, such as gas leaks, odor complaints, combustion gas fumes.
- (3) Maintenance or repair of Company-owned facilities on the customer's premises.

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(b) The following service calls will be performed at no charge during the Company's normal business hours:

- (1) Cut-ins and cut-outs.
- (2) High bills or inadequate service complaints.
- (3) Location of underground Company facilities and customer-owned gas service lines for contractors, builders, plumbers, etc.

~~15.~~ 16. **UTILITY SERVICES PERFORMED AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS** – For service requested by customers after the Company's normal business hours and on Saturday, Sunday, or legal holidays, a charge will be made for labor at standard overtime service rates and materials at retail prices. Customers requesting service after the Company's normal business hours will be informed of the after hour service rate and encouraged to have the service performed during normal business hours.

~~16.~~ 17. **NOTICE TO DISCONTINUE GAS SERVICE** – Customers desiring to have their gas service disconnected shall notify the Company during regular business hours, one business day before service is to be disconnected. Such notice shall be by letter, or telephone call to the Company's Customer Service Center. Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays are not considered business days.

~~17.~~ 18. **RECONNECTION FEE FOR SEASONAL OR TEMPORARY CUSTOMER** – A customer who requests reconnection of service, during normal working hours, at a location where same customer discontinued the same service during the preceding 12-month period will be charged a reconnection fee as follows:

Residential - The Basic Service Charge applicable during the period service was not being used and a charge of \$30.00. The minimum will be based on standard overtime rates for reconnecting service after normal business hours.

Non-Residential – The Basic Service Charge applicable during the period while service was not being used. However, the reconnection charge

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applicable to seasonal business concerns such as irrigation, grain drying and asphalt processing shall be the Basic Service Charge applicable during the period while service was not being used less the Distribution Delivery Charge revenue collected during the period in-service. A reconnection fee of \$30.00 will also apply to reconnections. The minimum will be based on standard overtime rates for reconnecting service occurring after normal business hours.

Transportation customers who cease service and then resume service within the succeeding 12 months shall be subject to a minimum reconnection charge of \$160.00 whenever reinstallation of the required remote data acquisition equipment is necessary.

18. 19. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE FOR NONPAYMENT OF BILLS – All amounts billed for service are due when rendered and will be considered delinquent if not paid by due date shown on the bill. If any customer shall become delinquent in the payment of amounts billed, such service may be discontinued by the Company under the applicable rules of the Commission. The Company may collect a fee of \$30.00 before restoring gas service, which has been disconnected for nonpayment of service bills during normal business hours. Standard overtime rates will apply for services performed after normal business hours when the call to request reconnection of service is received after 12:00 p.m. on a regular work day for reconnection that day.

19. 20. DISCONNECTION OF SERVICE FOR CAUSES OTHER THAN NONPAYMENT OF BILLS – The Company reserves the right to discontinue service for any of the following reasons:

- (a) In the event of customer use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's equipment or service to others.
- (b) In the event of tampering with the equipment furnished and owned by the Company.
- (c) For violation of or noncompliance with the Company's rules on file with the Commission.

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- (d) For failure of the customer to fulfill the contractual obligations imposed as conditions of obtaining service.
- (e) For refusal of reasonable access to property to the agent or employee of the Company for the purpose of inspecting the facilities or for testing, reading, maintaining or removing meters.

The right to discontinue service for any of the above reasons may be exercised whenever and as often as such reasons may occur, and any delay on the part of the Company in exercising such rights, or omission of any action permissible hereunder, shall not be deemed a waiver of its rights to exercise same.

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prevent discontinuing service without advance notice for reasons of safety, health, cooperation with civil authorities, or fraudulent use, tampering with or destroying Company facilities.

The Company may collect a reconnect fee of \$30.00 before restoring gas service, which has been disconnected for the above causes.

~~20.~~ 21. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SERVICE – Unauthorized use of service is defined as any deliberate interference such as tampering with a Company meter, pressure regulator, registration, connections, equipment, seals, procedures or records that result in a loss of revenue to the Company. Unauthorized service is also defined as reconnection of service that has been terminated, without the Company's consent.

- (a) Examples of unauthorized use of service include the following, but are not limited to:
 - (1) Bypass piping around meter.
 - (2) Bypass piping installed in place of meter.
 - (3) Meter reversed.
 - (4) Meter index disengaged or removed.

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Issued By: Tamie A. Aberle
Director – Regulatory Affairs

Case No.: PU-15-090



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
4th Revised Sheet No. 42.17
Canceling 3rd Revised Sheet No. 42.17

GENERAL PROVISIONS Rate 100

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- (5) Service or equipment tampered with or piping connected ahead of meter.
 - (6) Tampering with meter or pressure regulator that affects the accurate registration of gas usage.
 - (7) Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company. Gas being used after service has been discontinued by the Company as a result of a new customer turning gas on without the proper connect request.
- (b) In the event that there has been unauthorized use of service, customer shall be charged for:
- (1) Time, material and transportation costs used in investigation.
 - (2) Estimated charge for non-metered gas.
 - (3) On-premise time to correct situation.
 - (4) Any damage to Company property.
- (c) Customer service so disconnected shall be reconnected after a customer has furnished satisfactory evidence of compliance with Company's rules and conditions of service, and paid all charges as hereinafter set forth in this procedure.
- (1) All delinquent bills, if any.
 - (2) The amount of any Company revenue loss attributable to said tampering.
 - (3) Expenses incurred by the Company in replacing or repairing the meter or other appliance costs incurred in preparation of the bill, plus costs as outlined in number 20.b above.
 - (4) Reconnection fee applicable.
 - (5) A cash deposit, the amount of which will not exceed the maximum amount determined in accordance with Commission Rules.

21-22. RATE FOR EMPLOYEES – A bill discount may be available for residential use only in a single family unit served by Montana-Dakota to qualifying employees and retirees of MDU Resources and its subsidiaries. The bill shall be computed at applicable rate and amount reduced by 33 1/3 percent

Date Filed: November 9, 2015

Effective Date: Service rendered on and after December 1, 2015

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State of North Dakota Gas Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 7
2nd Revised Sheet No. 42.18
Canceling 1st Revised Sheet No. 42.18

GENERAL PROVISIONS Rate 100

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~~22-23.~~ SEE ALSO THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

Rate 119 – Interruptible Gas Service Extension Policy

Rate 120 – Firm Gas Service Extension Policy

Rate 124 – New Installation, Replacement, Relocation and Repair of Gas
Service Lines

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Exhibit 2

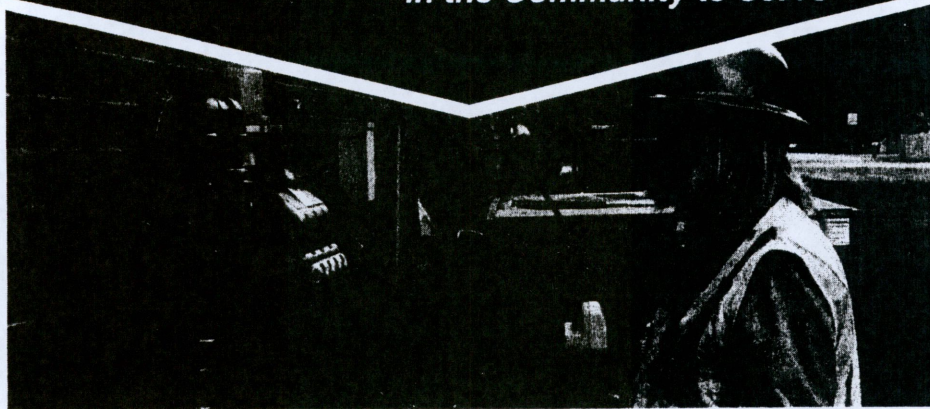
Exhibit 2



MONTANA-DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

In the Community to Serve®



Excess Flow Valve (EFV)

NOTIFICATION

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued a new pipeline safety regulation requiring natural gas utility companies to notify customers about the availability of Excess Flow Valves (EFV) for installation on the natural gas service line to their home or business.

What is an EFV?

An EFV is a safety device designed to automatically stop or restrict the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is broken or severed. Such damage is usually the result of some type of excavation. Although an EFV may help limit the effects or damage of such an incident, the best way to protect against such incidents is to ensure that anyone excavating on your property has called 811 to have underground service lines properly marked before digging. Installation of an EFV will not protect against customer appliance gas leaks, small gas service line punctures or gas meter leaks. EFVs are not available for some customers due to the amount of gas used, areas with delivery pressure less than 10 psi or other circumstances that hinder the effectiveness of the EFV.

Where is an EFV installed?

The EFV is installed underground on the service line that runs between the gas main located in public right of way or a dedicated utility easement and the natural gas meter. Generally the EFV is installed as close as possible to the gas main. In some instances the location may need to be installed further from the gas main to accommodate interference from other buried structures.

How much does it cost to have an EFV installed?

If you would like to have an EFV installed in your service line please contact Montana-Dakota at 1-800-638-3278 or email customerservice@mdu.com. The installation is estimated to be \$650, but the actual installation cost varies depending on the difficulty of the installation. The customer may be responsible for costs associated with installation, replacing or maintaining the EFV. Estimates for cost and time frame for construction will be provided as requested on a case by case basis. The EFV will be installed at a time that is mutually agreeable to the company and customer. Since the EFV will be installed on Montana-Dakota's gas pipe, only Montana-Dakota or its approved contractors may perform the installation.



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**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**