



**SMITH PORSBORG**  
 Schweigert Armstrong Moldenhauer & Smith  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW



January 15, 2018

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director  
 North Dakota Public Service Commission  
 State Capitol Building, Dept. 408  
 600 East Boulevard  
 Bismarck, ND 59505-0480

In re: Montana Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
 2017 Natural Gas Rate Increase Application  
 Case No. PU-17-295

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter please find the original Advocacy Staff's Response to MDU's Motion for Continuance of Hearing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

MITCHELL D. ARMSTRONG  
 Special Assistant Attorney General for  
 Public Service Commission Advocacy Staff

- Sheldon A. Smith\*
- Scott K. Porsborg\*\*\*
- Suzanne M. Schweigert\*
- Mitchell D. Armstrong\*\*
- Stacy M. Moldenhauer\*\*
- David J. Smith\*\*
- Brian D. Schmidt\*
- Tyler J. Malm\*
- Sarah E. Wall▲
- Austin T. Lafferty\*
- Ian J. Arendt\*

amh  
 enclosure

cc: Karl Liepitz, Paul Sanderson, and Tamie Aberle (w/ enc.) (via email)  
 Illona Jeffcoat Sacco and John Schuh (w/ enc.) (via email)  
 ALJ Ward (w/ enc.) (via email)  
 John Coffman and David Tschider (w/ enc.) (via email)  
 Andrew J. Unsicker, Lanny L. Ziemann, Capt, USAF, Natalie A. Cepak,  
 Ryan K. Moore, TSgt, Capt. USAF, Thomas Jernigan (w/ enc.) (via email)

\* Licensed in North Dakota  
 \*\* Licensed in Minnesota  
 • Licensed in South Dakota  
 ▲ Licensed in Montana  
 \* Board Certified Civil Trial Specialist by National Board of Trial Advocacy

PSC.4

**80 PU-17-295** Filed: 1/16/2018 Pages: 4  
**Advocacy Staff's Response to MDU's Motion for Continuance of Hearing**

Public Service Commission Advocacy Counsel

Mitch Armstrong, SAAG

[www.smithporsborg.com](http://www.smithporsborg.com)

122 E. Broadway Avenue Bismarck, ND 58501 P.O. Box 460 Bismarck, ND 58502-0460

Phone (701) 258-0630 Fax (701) 258-6498

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

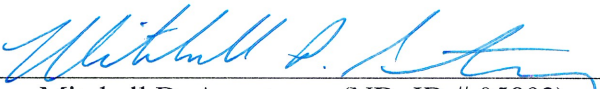
**Montana Dakota Utilities, Co., a Division  
of MDU Resources Group, Inc.  
2017 Natural Gas Rate Increase Application**

**Case No. PU-17-295**

**ADVOCACY STAFF'S RESPONSE TO MDU'S  
MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE OF HEARING**

On January 12, 2018, MDU requested a continuance of the hearing, which is scheduled to begin on February 28, 2018, due to recent changes in the tax law affecting this case. Advocacy Staff agrees with and joins MDU's request for a continuance for the reasons explained in MDU's motion. Advocacy Staff has consulted with MDU regarding the effect of the continuance and Staff and MDU agree that, if the continuance is granted, the order should also include a provision that rate suspension pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-05-06 is extended to August 31, 2018. Staff and MDU had previously agreed to an extension to April 30, 2018, based on the prior hearing date. Docket No. 69. Given the proposed continuance, a further extension is necessary.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

By:   
Mitchell D. Armstrong (ND. ID # 05892)  
Special Assistant Attorney General for PSC  
Advocacy Staff  
122 East Broadway Avenue  
P.O. Box 460  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0460  
Phone (701) 258-0630



Andrew Unsicker  
AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403  
[Andrew.unsicker@us.af.mil](mailto:Andrew.unsicker@us.af.mil)

John B. Coffman  
John B. Coffman, LLC  
871 Tuxedo Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63119-2044  
[john@johncoffman.net](mailto:john@johncoffman.net)

John Schuh  
Special Assistant Attorney General  
North Dakota Public Service  
Commission  
600 E. Blvd Ave, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
[jschuh@nd.gov](mailto:jschuh@nd.gov)

Thomas Jernigan  
AFCEC/JA-ULFSC  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403  
[Thomas.jernigan.3@us.af.mil](mailto:Thomas.jernigan.3@us.af.mil)

Lanny L. Zieman, Capt, USAF  
AFLOAIJACE-ULFSC  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403  
[Lanny.zieman.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Lanny.zieman.1@us.af.mil)

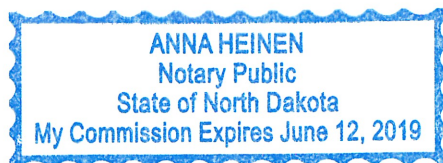
Natalie A. Cepak, Capt, USAF  
AFLOA/JACE-ULFSC  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida 32403  
[Natalie.Cepak.2@us.af.mil](mailto:Natalie.Cepak.2@us.af.mil)

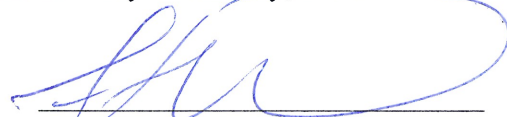
Ryan K. Moore, TSgt, Capt. USAF  
AFLOAIJACE-ULFSC  
139 Barnes Drive, Suite 1  
Tyndall Air Force Base, FL 32403  
[Ryan.moore.5@us.af.mil](mailto:Ryan.moore.5@us.af.mil)

Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco  
General Counsel  
600 E. Blvd. Ave. Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
[ijs@nd.gov](mailto:ijs@nd.gov)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell D. Armstrong

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
Burleigh County, North Dakota