

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Public Service Commission
Rate Impact and Accounting Treatment
Investigation

Case No. PU-17-490

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **11th** day of **January, 2018**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, **four** envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

- **Order Initiating Investigation**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.
400 North 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cert. No. 7017 2400 0001 0890 3974

Great Plains Natural Gas Company
PO Box 176
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Cert. No. 7017 2400 0001 0890 4438

Otter Tail Power Company
215 S. Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496
Cert. No. 7017 2400 0001 0890 4445

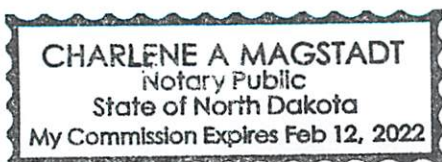
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall – 7th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Cert. No. 7017 2400 0001 0890 3981

Each post office address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **11th** day of **January, 2018**.

Notary Public

SEAL



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Case No. PU-17-490

ORDER INITIATING INVESTIGATION

January 10, 2018

Preliminary Statement

On December 22, 2017, President Donald Trump signed H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill Act of 2017 (Tax Reform), which amends the Internal Revenue Code to reduce tax rates and modify policies effective starting January 1, 2018.

On December 29, 2017, Public Service Commission Advocacy Staff filed with the Commission a Request to Initiate Investigation into the effects of the Tax Reform and for accounting treatment to record the impacts of the Tax Reform.

Discussion

Advocacy Staff requests that the Commission initiate an investigation to obtain information from investor-owned rate-regulated utilities regarding the impact of the Tax Reform.

Advocacy Staff also requests that, beginning January 1, 2018, jurisdictional investor-owned public utilities be required to apply regulatory accounting treatment, including the use of regulatory assets and liability accounts, to record the impacts of the Tax Reform.

The Commission believes the Tax Reform will reduce corporate income tax rates, including tax obligations of North Dakota public utilities, including from 35% to 21% to the top income bracket, beginning in the 2018 tax year. This tax reduction may provide an opportunity to reduce the rates to North Dakota public utility customers. Accordingly, the Commission finds it in the public interest to direct the public utilities to use regulatory accounting treatment to record the impact of the Tax Reform.

Order

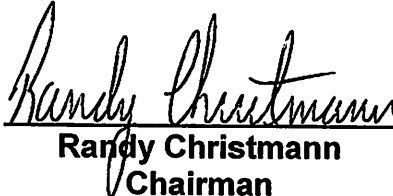
The Commission orders:

1. An investigation is initiated to determine the effect of the Tax Reform on Great Plains Natural Gas Co.; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.; Northern States Power Company; and Otter Tail Power Company.
2. Great Plains Natural Gas Co.; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.; Northern States Power Company; and Otter Tail Power Company shall apply the appropriate regulatory accounting treatment, including the use of regulatory assets and liability accounts, to record the impact of the Tax Reform beginning January 1, 2018, for Commission consideration.
3. By February 15, 2018, Great Plains Natural Gas Co.; Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.; Northern States Power Company; and Otter Tail Power Company shall each file information in this investigation regarding the impact of the Tax Reform with supporting calculations, and shall file comments regarding the appropriate regulatory accounting treatment.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Brian Kroshus
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chairman



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner