

## Notice of Ex Parte Communication

Case No. PU-20-344

Pursuant to 28-32-37, an person who has a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the proceeding may not communicate, directly or indirectly regarding any issue in the proceeding while it is pending without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication. Consistent with the listed section, this document shall be placed in the record.

**a) Party or person providing the ex parte communication:**

See attached copy of ex parte email communication and list of senders who sent them. Each email was the same except for the name of the sender.

**b) Description of all written or oral communications received, all written and oral responses to the communications:**

Emails sent to Commissioner Brian Kroshus, Commissioner Julie Fedorchak, and Commissioner Randy Christmann. An example of the email sent to each of the Commissioners is attached.

**c) All responses made written or oral to the ex parte communication:**

No response was provided

Any person desiring to rebut the ex parte communication are allowed to do so upon request within ten days after notice of the communication.

Parties, interested persons, and other persons allowed to participate that these matters: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.; and Commission Advocacy Staff.

Reporting Staff: John M. Schuh

## Eberl, Stacy L.

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**From:** Hamre, John G.  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:52 PM  
**To:** Eberl, Stacy L.  
**Subject:** FW: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

John G Hamre  
Administrative Assistant  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E Blvd Ave  
Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

-----Original Message-----

From: Kroshus, Brian <bkroshus@nd.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:54 AM  
To: Hamre, John G. <jghamre@nd.gov>  
Subject: FW: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

Brian Kroshus – Chairman  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
701-328-4195  
bkroshus@nd.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: AARP <aarpwebact@action.aarp.org>  
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:49 AM  
To: Kroshus, Brian <bkroshus@nd.gov>  
Subject: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

\*\*\*\*\* CAUTION: This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe. \*\*\*\*\*

Sep 3, 2020

Commissioner Brian Kroshus  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Commissioner Kroshus,

I am a Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) electric customer who is concerned about MDU's proposal to increase my rates in order to pay for projects out of state that will not benefit me or other North Dakota MDU electric customers. I am asking you to request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) hold a public hearing on DOCKET PU-20-344: MDU Transmission Cost Adjustment, including a virtual option to participate and comment.

I understand that the increase in spending includes funding for projects in other states for which North Dakota ratepayers receive little or no benefit.

That's not right or fair! North Dakota customers like me should not be paying for projects in other states.

In these uncertain times, utility rate increase requests like this one should be closely scrutinized and steps taken to avoid such huge jumps in the future I encourage you to hold a public hearing so we can fully understand why this increase is needed and to ensure North Dakota rate payers only pay for North Dakota projects.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike Stenvold  
1205 13 St NW  
Minot, ND 58703  
(701) 721-0819  
mike@stenvold.com

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## Eberl, Stacy L.

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**From:** Hamre, John G.  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** Eberl, Stacy L.  
**Subject:** FW: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

John G Hamre  
Administrative Assistant  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E Blvd Ave  
Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

-----Original Message-----

From: Kroshus, Brian <bkroshus@nd.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:55 AM  
To: Hamre, John G. <jghamre@nd.gov>  
Subject: FW: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

Brian Kroshus – Chairman  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
701-328-4195  
bkroshus@nd.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: AARP <aarpwebact@action.aarp.org>  
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:49 AM  
To: Kroshus, Brian <bkroshus@nd.gov>  
Subject: MDU Wants To Raise Your Rates

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Sep 3, 2020

Commissioner Brian Kroshus  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Commissioner Kroshus,

I am a Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) electric customer who is concerned about MDU's proposal to increase my bill by \$40 per year. I am asking you to request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) hold a public hearing on DOCKET PU-20-344: MDU Transmission Cost Adjustment, including a virtual option to participate and comment.

MDU's proposal is unfair to consumers like me. Recent reporting indicates that there have been a spike in unemployment claims.

Additionally, I have heard that a Feeding America study indicates North Dakota has also seen an increase in food insecurity rates even when compared to all other states. Also, it is clear to me there is a general feeling that the economy has been impacted in other ways by COVID 19. This makes the increase like the one proposed here is too steep.

In these uncertain times, utility rate increase requests like this one should be closely scrutinized and steps taken to avoid such huge jumps in the future.

I encourage you to hold a public hearing so we can fully understand why this increase is needed and so individuals can weigh in fully on the impacts.

MDU's proposal is unfair to consumers like me. Recent reporting indicates that there have been a spike in unemployment claims.

Additionally, I have heard that a Feeding America study indicates North Dakota has also seen an increase in food insecurity rates even when compared to all other states. Also, it is clear to me there is a general feeling that the economy has been impacted in other ways by COVID 19. This makes the increase like the one proposed here is too steep.

In these uncertain times, utility rate increase requests like this one should be closely scrutinized and steps taken to avoid such huge jumps in the future.

I encourage you to hold a public hearing so we can fully understand why this increase is needed and so individuals can weigh in fully on the impacts.

Sincerely,

Ms. Angela Uhlich  
1820 Ryan Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 400-8870  
auhlich@bis.midco.net

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## List of senders of the Ex Parte Email Communication

1. Kenneth Hansen
2. Dan Senger
3. Darrel Ahmann
4. Dennis Smith
5. Terrance Brosseau
6. Darla Pikyavit
7. Joan Ulmer
8. Laura Pinks
9. Deanna Ohlhauser
10. Howard Burns
11. Joan Johnson
12. Diane Patterson
13. Karen Stahl
14. Michael Schmidt
15. Stanley Zalumskis
16. Susan Dingle
17. George Simek
18. Joan Brosseau
19. Ronald Lee
20. Dennis Hensel
21. Teddy Stith
22. Caroline Monroe
23. Walt Gerenz
24. Theresa Tober
25. Jorge Pagan
26. Angela Uhlich
27. William O'Hara
28. Shari Neigum
29. LeDon Buchholz
30. Duane Wangen
31. Shirlene Wagner
32. Becky Rhodes
33. Leslie Momberg
34. Wanona Goetz
35. Kathy Larson
36. Mike Stenvold
37. Marcus Roehrich
38. Leroy Jensen
39. Ronnie Huber
40. Dawn Bruce
41. Douglas Rambousek
42. Nori Mosset

43. David Genter
44. Luci Dullum
45. Mike Kavadas
46. Nancy Willis
47. Thomas Wold
48. Michael Beasley
49. Tonja Schlosser
50. Craig Scott
51. James Henes
52. Mikel Schiermeister
53. Lori Voegele
54. Deborah Gabriel
55. Mahlon Meidinger
56. Harland Lehr
57. Bonnie Kolden
58. Gary Christian
59. Karina Marzban