

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
2023 Natural Gas Rate Increase
Application**

Case No. PU-23-341

ORDER ON INTERIM RATES

December 13, 2023

Preliminary Statement

On November 1, 2023, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU), filed with the Commission an increase in rates for natural gas service.

On November 1, 2023, MDU also filed an interim rate increase for natural gas service.

On December 7, 2023, Commission Advocacy Staff filed comments regarding MDU's proposed interim rate increase.

Discussion

MDU's November 1, 2023, filing set forth a rate increase based on revenue requirements for a projected 2024 test year. The rate change would result in an increase in annual revenue for the 2024 test year of \$10,094,595, or a 6.46% increase in annual revenue.

A company filing for a rate increase is entitled to an interim rate increase under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-05-06(2). The interim rate increase must meet certain criteria including: the same rate of return on common equity authorized by the Commission in the public utility's most recent rate proceeding; rate base and expense items the same in nature and kind allowed by the Commission in its most recent rate proceeding and; no change in the existing rate design.

Advocacy Staff states that MDU's interim increase complies with NDCC Section 49-05-06(2) and should be approved for service rendered on or after January 1, 2024.

The Commission finds that MDU's interim increase complies with NDCC Section 49-05-06(2).

In the event the interim rate amounts collected by MDU are more than final rates approved by the Commission, MDU is required to refund the excess under North Dakota

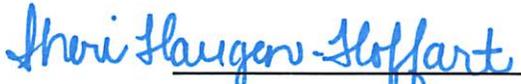
Century Code section 49-05-06(4), including interest at a rate to be determined by the Commission.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. The request of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., for interim rates to increase annual revenue collections by \$ 10,094,595 as filed on November 1, 2023, is approved.
2. Interim rates are effective for service rendered on or after January 1, 2024.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chair



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner