

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Cost of Gas 2024
Tariff Monthly Adjustments

Case No. PU-24-7

STAFF RESPONSE ON APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

April 11, 2024

On October 25, 2023, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (the Company) filed an application for protection of information in the above captioned case.

The information for which the Company seeks trade secret protection is a portion of the Cost of Gas filing that contains confidential information on gas commodity pricing. The following components are identified as confidential: Demand charge monthly delivery quantities excluding FT-1 MDDQ, Demand charge amounts excluding FT-1 MDDQ, Commodity charge monthly delivery quantities excluding the Gas Commodity – System quantity, Commodity charge amounts, Fuel – Transp. WBI rate Fuel – Transp. NB rate, Fuel – Transp. NW rate, Fuel – Storage rate, and Gas Commodity - System rate.

The Company states that this information is financial in nature. The Company submits this information as private. North Dakota Century Code § 44-04-18.4(2)(b) addresses this type of information. "Financial information" means information pertaining to monetary resources of a person that has not been previously publicly disclosed and that if the information were to be disclosed would impair the public entity's future ability to obtain necessary information or would cause substantial competitive injury to the person from which the information was obtained. The information contains confidential pricing

information relating to Montana-Dakota's natural gas purchase practices in a competitive environment and should not be disclosed or released to the public and that, if the information were released, competitors would be able to benefit from the information to the detriment of the Company and its customers. The confidential information is considered trade secret, as it provides an economic advantage in Montana-Dakota's gas contract negotiations. The Cost of Gas is subject to change each month. The Company requests an Order protecting the information provided in its Cost of Gas submittals in 2024.

The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by the Company. The information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the Company and is not ascertainable by proper means.

Staff has reviewed the information for which the company seeks protection and finds it meets the requirements of the applicable North Dakota Century Code, and North Dakota Administrative Code 69-02-09.

Staff recommends the Commission grant the Company's Application for Protection of Information in the above captioned case.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2024.



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