



THE STATE OF WYOMING

GOVERNOR

Matthew H. Mead

Public Service Commission

Hansen Building • 2515 Warren Avenue • Suite 300 • Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Ph. (307) 777-7427 • Fax (307) 777-5700 • psc.state.wy.us

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Christopher Petrie

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR

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Tamie Aberle
Director Regulatory Affairs
Montana Dakota Utilities Company
400 North 4th St.
Bismark, ND 58501

Re: IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES COMPANY
OF ITS INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN FOR 2017 - DOCKET NO. 20004-134-
EA-18 (RECORD NO. 14994)

LETTER ORDER

(Issued November 5, 2018)

Dear Ms. Aberle:

On May 8, 2018, Montana Dakota Utilities Company (MDU or the Company) filed the 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). From June 14, 2018, through October 29, 2018, notice of the IRP was placed on the Commission's Open Meeting agendas. The notice advised written comments were due on or before July 31, 2018; the Company's reply comments were due on or before August 31, 2018; and the IRP would be discussed during an Open Meeting held after September 14, 2018. On July 26, 2018, Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) filed comments in the matter. On August 31, 2018, the Company filed reply comments.

At the Commission's Open Meeting of November 1, 2018, Bruce Asay, Counsel, appeared in person, Tamie Aberle, Director Regulatory Affairs, appeared by telephone for the Company. Shannon Anderson appeared via telephone on behalf of PRBRC. Mr. Asay provided an overview of the Company's IRP, noting the key findings of the Company's 2017 IRP. Ms. Anderson commented on behalf of PRBRC. Commission Staff recommended accepting the IRP for filing.

Commission Rule, Chapter 3, Section 33, states:

Each utility serving in Wyoming that files an IRP in another jurisdiction shall file that IRP with the Commission. The Commission may require any utility to file an IRP.

Consistent with Commission Rule, Chapter 3, Section 33, the Commission directs that the referenced IRP be placed in the Commission's files with no further action required.

The placement of the IRP in the Commission's files shall not be construed as prior Commission approval of the IRP or any of the representations, forecasts, or conclusions contained therein for any purpose, including, without limitation, ratemaking. Further, the placement of the IRP in the Commission's files shall not be construed as an acknowledgment of the IRP as fulfilling the documentation requirement of Commission Rule, Chapter 3, Section 26(a)(ii)(B) which states:

(a) Utilities may file an application to pass on known or projected commodity or commodity-related cost increases or decreases per tariff.

(ii) Pass-on applications shall:

(B) Provide documentation that costs included in the application are the most reasonable option available to the utility for safe, adequate and reliable service. Utilities may file integrated resource plans or commodity acquisition plans for Commission review. After Commission acknowledgement, these plans may satisfy this requirement for pass-on applications;

Should MDU choose to rely on the IRP to meet the documentation requirements of Commission Rule, Chapter 3, Section 26(a)(ii)(B), the IRP or relevant portions of it should be attached to any pass-on or commodity balancing account filing, wherein the information will be subject to review by the Commission and any interested parties.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to Open Meeting action taken on November 1, 2018, Montana Dakota Utilities Company's 2017 Integrated Resource Plan is hereby placed in the Commission's files. No further action will be taken and this matter is closed.

2. This *Letter Order* is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on November 5, 2018.



BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION


JOHN S. BURBRIDGE, Assistant Secretary

cc: Bruce S. Asay, Associated Legal Group, LLC, 1812 Pebrican Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001