



THE STATE OF WYOMING

GOVERNOR
Matthew H. Mead

Public Service Commission

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SECRETARY AND CHIEF COUNSEL

Christopher Petrie
COMMISSION ADMINISTRATOR
Darrell Zlomke

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: IN THE MATTER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL GAS PURCHASE CONTRACT FILING OF
MONTANA DAKOTA UTILITIES COMPANY - DOCKET NO. 30013-330-GK-17
(RECORD NO. 14817)

LETTER ORDER
(Issued October 19, 2017)

Dear Ms. Aberle:

On August 4, 2017, Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an Application for acceptance of its confidential gas purchase contracts with various gas suppliers for compliance with Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 31. MDU also filed a *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Purchase Gas Contracts (Petition)* requesting the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) deem confidential certain financial information contained in the contracts. MDU states disclosure of such information would be a detriment to MDU and its customers.

Commission Rule Chapter 2, Section 30 provides, in part:

(a) Upon, petition, and for good cause shown, the Commission shall deem confidential any information filed with the Commission or in the custody of the Commission or staff which is shown to be of the nature described in Wyoming Statute § 16-4-203(a), (b), (d) or (g). All information for which confidential treatment is

requested shall be treated as confidential until the Commission rules whether, and to what extent, the information shall be given confidential

MDU's Contract filing and *Petition* came before the Commission pursuant to due notice at its Open Meeting on October 12, 2017. Commission Counsel recommended accepting the Contracts and granting the *Petition*. The Commission finds that MDU's *Petition* is generally consistent with the provisions of Commission Rule Chapter 2, Section 30, and should be granted.

The Commission's authorization to place the Contracts in its files does not constitute the Commission's determination of any utility rate making issues whatsoever, which issues are expressly reserved for decision until they are presented regularly to the Commission in appropriate proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to Open Meeting action taken October 12, 2017, Montana Dakota Utilities Co.'s confidential gas purchase contracts are accepted for filing.
2. Montana Dakota Utilities Co.'s *Petition for Confidential Treatment of Purchase Gas Contracts* is granted.
3. This *Letter Order* is effective immediately.

MADE and ENTERED at Cheyenne, Wyoming, on October 19, 2017.



BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



JOHN S. BURBRIDGE, Assistant Secretary

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