

NEWS RELEASE Oct. 10, 2017 For Immediate Release, Contact: Brian Kroshus, (701) 471-7965 Randy Christmann, (701) 328-4091 Julie Fedorchak, (701) 391-1140

PSC Schedules Public Input Sessions for Proposed MDU Natural Gas Rate Increase

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold public input sessions on Oct. 24 and 25 regarding a request from Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) to increase its rates for natural gas service.

The proposed increase is for \$5.9 million annually over current rates, or a 5.4 percent overall increase. The proposed increase to residential gas customers is 5.9 percent. If approved, rates would increase for residential customers by an average of about \$2.98 a month. MDU states that reason for the request is capital investment in pipeline replacement projects to enhance the safety and integrity of the natural gas system, as well as increased cost to operate and maintain the system.

Public input sessions will be held on two separate days via interactive television from locations across the state. The public will also be able to listen to the public input session via webcast and submit questions via e-mail. Officials from MDU will provide a presentation and give those attending a chance to ask questions about the proposal. Public input sessions are not considered part of the formal technical hearing, but the PSC Commissioners will be attending and using the information gathered at the sessions to identify areas of concern that may require further investigation during the formal technical hearing, which is scheduled for Feb. 28, 2018.

Note to the Media: A detailed list of the meeting locations is included on the next page, along with instructions for listening to the sessions via webstream.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, grain elevators, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

###

Find us on Twitter: twitter.com/ndpsc or @NDPSC

Public Service Commission – Public Input Sessions MDU Natural Gas Rate Increase (Case # PU-17-295)

Tuesday, Oct. 24th – 5:00 p.m. CST

Public Service Commission Hearing Room, 12th Floor State Capitol *Enter at the South Entrance 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505

Williston State College Stevens Hall, Room #108 1410 University Ave. Williston, ND 58801

Dickinson State University Klinefelter, Beck Auditorium 291 Campus Drive Dickinson, ND 58601

Lake Region State College Admin. Building, Room #171 1801 College Drive N. Devils Lake, ND 58301

Minot State University Admin. Building, Room #359 500 University Ave. W Minot, ND 58707

Valley City State University Rhoades, Room #338 101 College Drive SW Valley City, ND 58072

Wednesday, Oct. 25th – 5:00 p.m. CST

Public Service Commission Hearing Room, 12th Floor State Capitol *Enter at the South Entrance 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505

Williston State College Steven's Hall, Room #108 1410 University Ave. Williston, ND 58801

Dickinson State University Murphy Hall, Thompson Auditorium Room #155 291 Campus Drive Dickinson, ND 58601

Lake Region State College Admin. Building, Room #171 1801 College Drive N. Devils Lake, ND 58301

Minot State University Admin. Building, Room #362 500 University Ave. W Minot, ND 58707

Valley City State University Rhoades, Room #101 101 College Drive SW Valley City, ND 58072

To listen via webstream:

- Visit the web address http://state.video.nd.gov
- Login using email: guest@psc.gov
 Password: psc
- Questions can be submitted via e-mail during the session to <u>vschock@nd.gov</u>