



# Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58501

## State of North Dakota Electric Rate Schedule

NDPSC Volume 4  
Original Sheet No. 49

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**Date Filed:** June 14, 2011

**Effective Date:** Service rendered on and  
after July 22, 2011

**Issued By:** Tamie A. Aberle  
Regulatory Affairs Manager

**Case No.:** PU-10-124



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#### I. PURPOSE:

These rules are intended to define good practice which can normally be expected, but are not intended to exclude other accepted standards and practices not covered herein. They are intended to ensure adequate service to the public and protect the Company from unreasonable demands.

The Company undertakes to furnish service subject to the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission of North Dakota (Commission) and as supplemented by these general provisions, as now in effect or as may hereafter be lawfully established, and in accepting service from the Company, each customer agrees to comply with and be bound by said rules and regulations and the applicable rate schedules. Also refer to Electric Service Rules & Regulations Rate 110.

#### II. DEFINITIONS:

The following terms used in this tariff shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise indicated:

APPLICANT – A customer requesting Company to provide service.

COMMISSION – Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota.

COMPANY – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

CUSTOMER – Any individual, partnership, corporation, firm or other organization, or government agency supplied with service by Company at one location and at one point of delivery unless otherwise expressly in these rules or in a rate schedule.

RATE – Shall mean and include every compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental, and classification, or any of them, demanded, observed, charged or collected by the Company for any service, product, or commodity, offered by the Company to the public, and any rules, regulations, practices or contracts affecting any such compensation, charge, fare, toll, rental or classification.

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### III. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

#### 1. RULES FOR APPLICATION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE:

- i. Residential Electric Service is available to any residential customer for domestic purposes only. All normal sized equipment used for domestic lighting, heating, cooking and power, and used strictly for household purposes, may be supplied through one meter.
  - a. Residential service is defined as service for domestic general household purposes in space occupied as living quarters, designed for occupancy by one family. Typical service would include the following: separately metered units, such as single private residences, single apartments, mobile homes and sorority and fraternity houses (this is not an all-inclusive list). In addition, auxiliary buildings on the same premise as the living quarters, used for residential purposes, may be served on the residential rate. Where premise is defined as a contiguous parcel of land undivided by a dedicated street, alley, highway, or other public thoroughfare or railway.
  - b. Motors and other equipment which interfere with service to neighboring customers, all motors larger than 5 horsepower and temporary or seasonal loads totaling more than 25 kilowatts (Kw) will not be permitted on the Residential Electric Service Rate without prior Company approval.
  - c. Only single phase service is available under the Residential Electric Service Rate.
- ii. Three phase service shall be served under the appropriate General Electric Service Rate.
- iii. General Electric Service is defined as service provided to non-residential services, such as a business enterprise in space

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occupied and operated for nonresidential purposes. Typical service would include stores, offices, shops, restaurants, boarding houses, hotels, service garages, wholesale houses, filling stations, barber shops, beauty parlors, apartment houses with master metering exemptions, common areas of shopping malls or apartments (such as halls or basements), churches, elevators, schools and facilities located away from the home site (this is not an all-inclusive list).

- iv. If separate metering is not practical for a single unit (one premise) that is using electricity for both domestic purposes and for conducting business (or for nonresidential purposes), the customer will be billed under the predominate use policy. Under this policy, the customer's combined service is billed under the rate (Residential or General Electric Service) applicable to the type of service which constitutes 50% or more of the total connected load.
- v. Other classes of service furnished by the Company shall be defined in applicable rate schedules or in rules and regulations pertaining thereto. Service to customers for which no specific rate schedule is applicable shall be billed on the appropriate General Electric Service Rate.

#### 2. CONSUMER DEPOSITS:

The Company will determine whether or not a deposit shall be required of an applicant for electric service in accordance with Commission rules.

- i. The amount of such deposit shall not exceed an estimated 60 day service bill.
- ii. The Company may accept in lieu of a cash deposit a contract signed by a guarantor, satisfactory to the Company, whereby the payment of a specified sum not to exceed the required cash deposit is guaranteed. The term of such contract shall be indeterminate, but it shall automatically terminate when the customer gives notice of service discontinuance to the Company or a change in location covered by the guarantee agreement or 30

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days after written request for termination is made to the utility by the guarantor. However, no agreement shall be terminated without the customer having made satisfactory settlement for any balance which the customer owes the Company. Upon termination of a guarantee contract, a new contract or a cash deposit may be required by the Company.

- iii. A deposit shall earn interest at the rate paid by the Bank of North Dakota on a six-month certificate of deposit as of the first business day of each year. Interest shall be credited to the customer's account annually during the month of December.
- iv. Deposits shall be refunded to customers at termination provided all billings for service have been paid. Deposits will be refunded to all active customers, after the deposit has been held for 12 months, provided a prompt payment record has been established.

3. **LATE PAYMENT CHARGE:**

Bills will be considered past due if not paid by the due date shown on the bill. An amount equal to 1% per month will be applied to any unpaid balance existing at the immediate subsequent billing date.

4. **RETURNED CHECK CHARGE:**

A charge of \$15.00 will be collected by the Company for each check charged back to the Company by a bank.

5. **TAX CLAUSE:**

In addition to the charges provided for in the electric tariffs of the Company, there shall be charged pro rata amounts which, on an annual basis, shall be sufficient to yield to the Company the full amount of any sales, use or excise taxes, whether they be denominated as license taxes, occupation taxes, business taxes, privilege taxes, or otherwise, levied against or imposed upon the Company by any municipality, political subdivision, or other entity, for the privilege of conducting its utility operations therein.

The charges to be added to the customer's service bills under this clause

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shall be limited to the customers within the corporate limits of the municipality, political subdivision or other entity imposing the tax.

#### 6. UTILITY SERVICES PERFORMED AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS:

For service requested by customers after the Company's normal business hours and on Saturday, Sunday, or legal holidays, a charge will be made for labor at standard overtime service rates and materials at retail prices.

Customers requesting service after the Company's normal business hours will be informed of the after hour service rate and encouraged to have the service performed during normal business hours.

#### 7. RECONNECTION FEE FOR SEASONAL CUSTOMERS:

A fee of \$20.00 will be collected for reconnecting electric service to any customer who has disconnected electric service at the same location during the preceding twelve-month period.

#### 8. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE FOR NONPAYMENT OF BILL:

- i. Pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Rules 69-09-02-05.1(1), the Company may disconnect service if the customer is delinquent in payment for service, and fails to pay for service or enter into a satisfactory installment agreement with the Company for payment within ten (10) days of the Company giving the customer written notice of the Company's intention to discontinue service on account of payment delinquency.
- ii. All bills for service are due when rendered and will be considered delinquent if not paid by the due date shown on the bill. If any customer shall become delinquent in the payment of service bills, such service may be discontinued by the Company under the applicable rules of the Commission.
- iii. If a customer's credit standing becomes unsatisfactory after a deposit has been refunded or if the deposit is inadequate to cover the estimated charge for furnishing service for a 60-day period, a

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new or additional deposit may be required upon reasonable written notice by the Company.

- iv. Pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Rules 69-09-02-05.1(10), the Company may not discontinue service to the Customer for nonpayment of a deposit.
- v. The Company may collect a fee of \$20.00 before restoring electric service which has been discontinued for nonpayment of service bills, or where a Service Extender has been installed in lieu of full disconnection.

#### 9. DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE FOR CAUSES OTHER THAN NONPAYMENT OF BILLS:

The Company reserves the right to discontinue service for any of the following reasons:

- i. In the event of customer use of equipment in such a manner as to adversely affect the Company's equipment or service to others.
- ii. In the event of tampering with the equipment furnished and owned by the Company.
- iii. For violation of or noncompliance with the Company's rules on file with the Commission.
- iv. For failure of the customer to fulfill the contractual obligations imposed as conditions of obtaining service.
- v. For refusal of reasonable access to property to the agent or employee of the Company for the purpose of inspecting the facilities or for testing, reading, maintaining or removing meters.

The right to discontinue service for any of the above reasons may be exercised whenever and as often as such reasons may occur, and any delay on the part of the Company in exercising such rights, or omission of any action permissible hereunder, shall not be deemed a waiver of its rights to exercise same.

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Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prevent discontinuing service without advance notice for reasons of safety, health, cooperation with civil authorities, or fraudulent use, tampering with or destroying Company facilities.

The Company may collect a reconnect fee of \$20.00 before restoring electric service, which has been disconnected for the above causes.

**10. BILL DISCOUNT FOR QUALIFYING EMPLOYEES:**

A bill discount may be available for residential use only in a single family unit served by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. to qualifying employees and retirees of MDU Resources and its subsidiaries. The bill shall be computed at the applicable rate, and the amount reduced by 33 1/3%.

**11. METHOD OF COMPUTING INITIAL OR FINAL BILLS FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE FOR LESS THAN A FULL MONTHLY BILLING PERIOD:**

Customer's meters are read as nearly as practicable at thirty day intervals. When service is begun or terminated at any location between regular meter reading dates, bills will be prorated on a daily basis, whenever the billing period is less than 27 calendar days or more than 35 calendar days. The minimum monthly bill, basic service charge, kilowatt hour blocks and demand charge provisions in all rate schedules will be prorated.

**12. SELECTIVE TESTING PLAN FOR METERS:**

The electric meter population shall be tested in accordance with the Electric Meter Testing Program approved by the Commission.

**13. BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:**

If a meter or billing error results from 1) an inaccurate meter; 2) an incorrect reading of the meter; 3) an incorrect application of a rate schedule; 4) an incorrect connection of the meter; 5) an application of an incorrect multiplier or constant; or 6) other similar errors affecting customer bills.

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- i. If a Customer is underbilled, the Company may recalculate the bills and reissue corrected bills for service during the period of the error, up to a maximum period of six years from the date of the bill, with the exception of a meter equipment failure.
- ii. If a Customer is overbilled, the Company shall recalculate bills for errors resulting in overcharges up to a maximum of six years from the date of payment, with the exception of a meter equipment failure. In the case of a meter equipment failure, the Company may charge the Customer for a period equal to one-half the time elapsed since the last previous meter test, but not to exceed six months.

#### 14. RULES AND POLICIES FOR IMPLEMENTING MASTER METERING RESTRICTIONS:

- i. Any new commercial or residential building for which the physical labor involved in the erection of such building starts on or after November 1, 1980, if the said building contains more than one unit or contains facilities for multiple uses and the occupant of each unit or facility controls a portion of the electric energy used in the unit or facility.
- ii. Any substantially remodeled commercial or residential building for which the physical labor involved with the remodeling of the said building starts on or after November 1, 1980, if the said building contains more than one unit or contains facilities for multiple uses and the occupant of each unit or facility controls a portion of the electric energy used in the unit or facility.
- iii. This rule does not apply to hotels, motels, dormitories, nursing homes, homes for the elderly, facilities of a similar nature, or to low-income rental housing for which the cost of electricity is included in the rent, and for which the amount of the rental payment is based upon the tenant's ability to pay. Such buildings and facilities may be served by a master-meter.

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- iv. Electric service to each unit or facility in a new or substantially remodeled building which is subject to this rule shall be provided in accordance with the applicable rate schedule for such service in the area in which the building is located.
- v. Electric service to buildings which are subject to this rule shall be on an individually-metered basis, unless the owner or builder of such building presents the Company with written evidence that the North Dakota Public Service Commission has approved master-metering of electric service to the building on the basis that the owners or contractors costs of purchasing and installing facilities for separate metering together with the Company costs of purchasing and installing separate meters exceed the long-term benefits resulting therefrom.

#### 15. MODIFICATION OF RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Company reserves the right to modify its rates, rules, and regulations or other provisions now or hereafter in effect, in any manner permitted by law.

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