Service Date: April 13, 1990

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER of the Application of MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES COMPANY, a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. for Authority to Provide Athletic Field Lighting through Rates 20 and 30.	)))))	UTILITY DIVISION DOCKET NO. 90.3.23 ORDER NO. 5469

INTERIM ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 7, 1990 Montana-Dakota Utilities Company (Applicant or MDU) filed with the Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC or Commission) for authority to revise its tariffs to offer electric service at secondary voltage for athletic field lighting under either Small General Electric Service Rate 20 or Large General Electric Service Rate 30, as differentiated by load requirements. Unless revised, Rates 20 and 30 do not allow outside lighting.

2. Outside athletic field lighting is presently available through MDU's Electric Service Rules and Regulations Rate 110. At this time, the customer is required to take primary voltage service and to furnish, install and maintain the entire installation, including distribution transformers and a load breaking switch (Paragraph 713, Rate 110, MDU Montana Electric Tariff).

Under Rate 110 MDU provides metering equipment. Service prices include base rates and energy charges per Rates 20 or 30 depending on load requirements.

3. In this Docket, MDU is seeking authority to provide athletic field lighting service via secondary voltage service through Rates 20 and 30, depending on load requirements, where secondary service is available.

4. To provide athletic field lighting through Rates 20 or 30 as proposed, MDU will be responsible for furnishing and installing all load breaking switches and transformers and any other associated material required by Rate 110. The customer will be required to pay applicable demand charges per Rates 20 or 30, in addition to applicable base rates and energy charges.

5. MDU proposes to eliminate the exception to "outdoor lighting" from the availability sections of Rates 20 and 30. In addition, MDU proposes to delete the language referring to a discount for primary service since the rate schedule to which this discount is applied is no longer in place.

6. At the Agenda meeting held April 9, 1990, the Commission GRANTED MDU interim approval to offer athletic field lighting to customers under Rates 20 or 30. The Commission notes that MDU has not filed a complete cost of service study for its Montana electric operations since Docket No. 86.5.28 (Final Order No. 5219b issued March 24, 1987). As such, the Commission approves the present request on an interim basis pending final approval following MDU's next general electric rate case. At

that time MDU's proposal to provide athletic field lighting through Rates 20 or 30 will be scrutinized with respect to cost of service and rate design.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant Montana-Dakota Utilities Company provides electric service within the State of Montana and as such is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over Applicant's Montana rates and operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides, in part, that the Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve rate changes pending a hearing or final decision.

4. Applicant's proposal to revise its tariffs to offer electric service at secondary voltage for athletic field lighting under either Small General Electric Service Rate 20 or Large General Electric Service Rate 30, instead of primary voltage under its Electric Service Rules and Regulations Rate 110, is a reasonable means to offer this service in a manner satisfactory to its customers.

ORDER

THEREFORE THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. Applicant Montana-Dakota Utilities Company is hereby granted interim authority to offer athletic field lighting service at secondary voltage under its Small General Electric Service Rate 20 and Large General Electric Service Rate 30, pending final approval following Applicant's next general electric rate case.

2. MDU has this authority to provide these services on and after April 9, 1990.

3. Applicant must file its new tariffs in compliance with the Findings of Fact in this Interim Order.

4. Interim approval of this request for authority should not be viewed as final endorsement by the Commission of the tariffs filed accordingly herein. The Commission will carefully scrutinize the cost of service and rate design affecting these tariffs in the next general electric rate case.

5. The Commission accepts, for interim purposes, MDU's request that this is a complete filing and is in full compliance with the filing requirements of the Commission, and the Commission reserves final ruling on this request until a Final Order is issued.

Done and Dated this 9th day of April by a vote of 4-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Vice Chairman

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ann Peck
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.