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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 19, 2021

Ms. Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: Case No. INT-G-21-02

Dear Ms. Noriyuki:

Attached for consideration by this Commission is an electronic submission of Intermountain Gas Company's Application for Extension of the Accounting Order Authorizing a Regulatory Asset for the Costs Associated with Customer Payment Transactions Handled by Western Union.

If you should have any questions regarding the attached, please don't hesitate to contact me at (208) 377-6015.

Sincerely,

Lori A. Blattner
Director, Regulatory Affairs
Intermountain Gas Company

Enclosure

cc: Mark Chiles
Preston Carter

INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY

CASE NO. INT-G-21-02

APPLICATION

**In the Matter of the Application of INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY
for Extension of the Accounting Order Authorizing a Regulatory Asset for the
Costs Associated with Customer Payment Transactions Handled by Western
Union**

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Attorneys for Intermountain Gas Company

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of
INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY
for Extension of the Accounting Order
Authorizing a Regulatory Asset for the
Costs Associated with Customer Payment
Transactions Handled by Western Union

Case No. INT-G-21-02

APPLICATION

Intermountain Gas Company (“Intermountain” or “Company”), a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc. with general offices located at 555 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), requests an extension of Order No. 34099 as outlined in this Application. Order No. 34099 authorized Intermountain to create a regulatory asset to capture the costs associated with in-person pay station transactions handled by Western Union.

Please address communications regarding this Application to:

Lori A. Blattner
Director – Regulatory Affairs
Intermountain Gas Company
Post Office Box 7608
Boise, Idaho 83707
Lori.Blattner@intgas.com

and

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In support of this Application, Intermountain alleges and states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

Intermountain is a gas utility, subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, engaged in the sale of and distribution of natural gas within the State of Idaho under authority of Commission Certificate No. 219, issued December 2, 1955, as amended and supplemented by Order No. 6564, dated October 3, 1962.

Intermountain provides natural gas service to the following Idaho communities and counties and adjoining areas:

Ada County - Boise, Eagle, Garden City, Kuna, Meridian, and Star;
Bannock County - Arimo, Chubbuck, Inkom, Lava Hot Springs, McCammon, and Pocatello;
Bear Lake County - Georgetown, and Montpelier;
Bingham County - Aberdeen, Basalt, Blackfoot, Firth, Fort Hall, Moreland/Riverside, and Shelley;
Blaine County - Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley;
Bonneville County - Ammon, Idaho Falls, Iona, and Ucon;
Canyon County - Caldwell, Greenleaf, Middleton, Nampa, Parma, and Wilder;
Caribou County - Bancroft, Grace, and Soda Springs;
Cassia County - Burley, Declo, Malta, and Raft River;
Elmore County - Glenns Ferry, Hammett, and Mountain Home;
Fremont County - Parker, and St. Anthony;
Gem County - Emmett;
Gooding County - Bliss, Gooding, and Wendell;
Jefferson County - Lewisville, Menan, Rigby, and Ririe;
Jerome County - Jerome;
Lincoln County - Shoshone;
Madison County - Rexburg, and Sugar City;
Minidoka County - Heyburn, Paul, and Rupert;
Owyhee County - Bruneau, Marsing, and Homedale;
Payette County - Fruitland, New Plymouth, and Payette;
Power County - American Falls;
Twin Falls County - Buhl, Filer, Hansen, Kimberly, Murtaugh, and Twin Falls;
Washington County - Weiser.

Intermountain's properties in these locations consist of transmission pipelines, liquefied natural gas storage facilities, a compressor station, distribution mains, services, meters and regulators, and general plant and equipment.

II. BACKGROUND

In Case No. INT-G-18-01, the Company applied to the Commission for authority to create a regulatory asset to capture the costs associated with in-person customer payment transactions handled by Western Union. Intermountain asked that it be authorized to defer costs into the regulatory asset for recovery in the Company's Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA) until February 1, 2021, or until the company files a general rate case, whichever is first.

In Order No. 34099, the Commission "approved the creation of a regulatory asset to capture the costs associated with in-person customer pay station transactions handled by Western Union." Order No. 34099 at 3. The Commission further authorized the Company to "seek recovery of those costs in the Company's PGA beginning in 2019 until February 1, 2021, or until the Company files a general rate case, whichever comes first." Order No. 34099 at 3.

III. EXTENSION REQUEST

It is an understatement to say that 2020 was not a normal year. Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic the 2020 revenues and expenses of Intermountain upon which a general rate case would be based are far from normal. Because of this, the Company is not planning to file a general rate case based on a 2020 test year. Order No. 34099 anticipated a general rate case prior to February 1, 2021 but did not anticipate the disruption caused by the pandemic. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, Intermountain is requesting an extension of Order No. 34099 which would allow the Company to continue to defer the costs associated with in-person customer pay station transactions handled by Western Union and to seek recovery of those costs in the Company's PGA until such time as the Company is able to file a general rate case based upon a more normal test year.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

Intermountain requests that the effective date of the extension of the deferral of Western Union fees and collection through the PGA be retroactive to February 1, 2021.

V. MODIFIED PROCEDURE

Intermountain requests that this matter be handled under modified procedure pursuant to Rules 201-204 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Intermountain stands ready for immediate consideration of this matter.

VI. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Intermountain respectfully petitions the Idaho Public Utilities Commission as follows:

- a. That the Commission extend the authority granted in Order No. 34099 to continue deferring to a regulatory asset the costs associated with in-person customer payment transactions handled by Western Union,
- b. That the Commission extend the authority granted Intermountain to recover these deferred costs through its PGA,
- c. That the effective date for the extension be retroactive to February 1, 2021,
- d. That this Application be heard and acted upon without hearing under modified procedure, and
- e. For such other relief as this Commission may determine proper.

DATED: February 19, 2021.

INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY

By



Lori A. Blattner

Director – Regulatory Affairs

GIVENS PURSLEY LLP

By



Preston N. Carter

Attorney for Intermountain Gas Company