

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF INTERMOUNTAIN) CASE NO. INT-G-21-08
GAS COMPANY’S APPLICATION TO)
REVISE ITS ELECTRONIC RECEIVER) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
TRANSMITTER DRIVE RATE)
PROGRAMMING AND VERIFICATION) NOTICE OF
PROCESS) MODIFIED PROCEDURE
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)
) **ORDER NO. 35275**
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On December 6, 2021, Intermountain Gas Company (“the Company”) applied to revise its current electronic receiver transmitter (“ERT”) drive rate and verification process. Currently, the Company audits each ERT unit within 30 days of installation to verify the programming rate and ensure that it matches the installed meter. The Company has revised its procedures for verifying ERT drives and meters and believes the current 30-day audit is no longer necessary.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Company is subsidiary company of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (“MDU”). The Company is a public utility that sells and distributes natural gas within the State of Idaho.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that in 2008, after receiving two formal complaints involving billing errors arising from a mismatch between the meter drive rate and drive rate programmed into the ERT, the Company worked with Staff to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) regarding guidelines for inaccurately billed service. Based upon the MOU’s purpose, the Company instituted a 30-day-audit practice after meter installation to verify the ERT drive rate programming to ensure that the drive rate matched the installed meter.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the ERT transmits consumption data to the Company’s billing system. The drive rate represents the amount of gas consumed during one cycle of the diaphragm within the meter. In the above-mentioned formal complaints, the ERT drives were programmed with a one-foot drive rate while the meters were constructed with a two-foot drive rate. This mismatch in drive rates caused the gas consumption used for billing purposes to be exactly one half of the actual amount of gas consumed.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company currently verifies and programs the drive rate programming at the time of meter installation, and if the ERT is newly installed on the meter, the ERT is programmed at that time. Within 30 days of installation and programming, the Company audits meters to verify that the drive rate programming in the ERT matches the installed meter. This process addressed the problems identified in 2006 and 2007.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company represents it has identified a new process that is accurate, reliable, and renders the 30-day audit unnecessary. The Company states that the ERT drive rate will be programmed at the meter manufacturer's facility or in the Company's meter shop and then be verified at the time of meter installation. The Company states that this proposal provides two verifications and makes the 30-day audit unnecessary.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company is working to convert all one-foot drive meters to two-foot drive meters and states that it is only purchasing new meters with two-foot drives in order to standardize all residential meters to two-foot drives. For all new ERT's programmed in the meter manufacturer's facility, the Company states that its meter shop performs a sample audit of the ERTs to check that they are programmed as a two-foot drive. The Company also asserts that the current one-foot drive meters are reprogrammed in the Company's meter shop and then verified at the time of installation. The Company represents that this process provides the two verifications envisioned in 2008 after entering into the MOU with Staff.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Application and Exhibits are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission's office. The documents are also available on the Commission's website at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "NATURAL GAS" tab at the top of the home page, then select "Open Cases" and then locate and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code. The Commission may enter any final order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure

pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application. Persons who would like a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. **Persons must file comments by February 24, 2022.** Comments must be filed through the Commission’s website or by e-mail unless computer access is unavailable. To comment electronically, please access the Commission’s home page at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the “Consumers” tab and then “Case Comment Form” and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. To file by e-mail, the customer must e-mail the comments to the Commission Secretary and the Company at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and Company at these addresses:

**For the Idaho Public Utilities
Commission:**

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

Street Address for Express Mail:

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
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For Intermountain Gas:

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harmonywright@givenspursley.com

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company must file any reply comments **by March 2, 2022.**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

ORDER

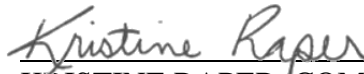
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rules 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons interested in submitting written comments must do so by February 24, 2022. The Company must file any reply comments by March 2, 2022.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Parties should continue to comply with Order No. 35058, issued June 3, 2021. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. See Rule 14.02. Service between Parties should also be accomplished electronically. Voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 28th day of December 2021.



ERIC ANDERSON, PRESIDENT

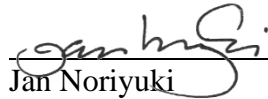


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



PAUL KJELLANDER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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