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# Consumer Information Energy Telecommunications

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# Docket No. RPU-2013-0004: MidAmerican Energy Company's Request for an Electric Rate Increase

On May 17, 2013, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed a proposal to increase its lowa electric base rates with the lowa Utilities Board (Board). MidAmerican proposes a total base rate increase of approximately \$135.6 million to be phased-in over three years.

On August 15, 2013, the Board issued an order setting temporary rates in this case, allowing the first of MidAmerican's three proposed \$45.2 million increases while its final decision in this case is pending. The average residential monthly bill will increase about \$2.73 (3.6 percent) under temporary rates. However, the temporary rates and charges collected are subject to customer refund, with interest, if the Board establishes final rates that are less than temporary rates. The utility's proposed January 1, 2015, second part and January 1, 2016, third part of its phase-in request will be addressed in the Board's decision on final rates, which is anticipated by March 17, 2014. Under MidAmerican's full rate increase application, the average residential monthly bill increase would be an additional \$2.75 (3.5 percent) in 2015 and \$2.68 (3.3 percent) in 2016.

MidAmerican's petition also includes a 10-year rate equalization plan to balance rates in its East, North, and South service territories, which resulted from past utility acquisitions and mergers. The proposed consolidation of rates in the various rate zones would begin in 2014 and would be revenue neutral (not increase MEC revenue). Rate impacts will vary based on customer class and service zone. As part of the proposed rate increase, MidAmerican is also seeking permission to add two adjustment clauses to lowa customers' bills to help cover the costs of energy production and transmission.

All documents filed in this rate case, Docket No. RPU-2013-0004, are available on the Board's electronic filing system. The Board is also accepting written comments with the most effective comments being concise and making specific points supporting or objecting to the rate request. To file written public comments, please use the electronic comment form, or email customer@iub.iowa.gov, or send by mail to the lowa Utilities Board, Executive Secretary, Docket No. RPU-2013-0002, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Rm. 69, Des Moines, lowa 50319-0069.

## **Customer Comment Meetings Held**

MidAmerican provides electric service to approximately 641,000 customers in lowa. Eight customer comment meetings were held in this case:

lowa City: June 13, 2013.
Des Moines: June 17, 2013.
Storm Lake: June 18, 2013.
Council Bluffs: June 24, 2013.
Sioux City: June 25, 2013.
Davenport: June 26, 2013.
Waterloo: June 27, 2013.

Fort Dodge: July 2, 2013.

All verbal comments provided at the customer comment meetings, and all written comments received, are part of the permanent file for this rate case.

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# **EXHIBIT 7**

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#### Welcome to the Iowa Utilities Board

The IUB is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the IUB is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide adequate and reliable service at reasonable prices.



### For your information . . .

Iowa-American Water Company Proposed Rate Increase On April 30, 2013, lowa-American Water Company filed a proposal to increase its water utility rates with the lowa Utilities Board. An evidentiary hearing beginning on October 30, 2013, allows for cross examination and questioning of witnesses that have provided written testimony in this case. For more information please see the RPU-2013-0002 information page and news release.



Utility Associations and Rate-Regulated Electric Utilities Combat Copper Theft The Iowa Utilities Board supports the combined efforts of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, MidAmerican Energy Company and Alliant Energy/Interstate Power & Light Company in their partnership with Crime Stoppers to help prevent copper theft from utility facilities in the state. Copper theft can

cost tens of thousands of dollars in repairs while causing power surges, power outages, and serious injuries. For more information, see the joint news release.

Board Completes Scope of Telecom Regulation Inquiry The lowa Utilities Board has issued an Order Closing Docket No. NOI-2013-0001, which includes the staff report summarizing and analyzing comments received by the Board and recommending the need for certain legislative changes, new rule makings, and ongoing monitoring of some telecom industry issues.

Utility Winter Heating Disconnection Moratorium Begins Nov. 1 lowa's annual winter disconnection moratorium begins November 1. The lowa Utilities Board reminds consumers that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Home Weatherization Program both protect against energy utility service disconnection while helping eligible lowans to reduce residential heating costs. Heating assistance funds are limited and applications will be accepted on a first come/first served basis by lowa's Community Action Agencies from November 1, 2013, through April 30, 2014.

Rock Island Clean Line LLC is proposing to build a high-voltage direct current transmission line across lowa. For more information about the lowa Utilities Board process for reviewing proposed transmission lines, and upcoming informational meetings, please visit the Electric Transmission Line Franchise Process page. NOTE: Newly-appointed Board Member Sheila K. Tipton was involved in the representation of Rock Island Clean Line, LLC while a member of her former law firm. Since her appointment to the Board, Ms. Tipton has severed all ties with her former law firm, that firm no longer represents Rock Island Clean Line, LLC and, pursuant to the applicable rules of ethics, Ms. Tipton will have no involvement in this case.

MidAmerican Energy Company Proposed Rate Increase On May 17, 2013, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed a proposal to increase its Iowa electric base rates with the Iowa Utilities Board. On August 15, 2013, the Board issued an order setting temporary rates pending its final decision in this case, which is expected by March 17, 2014. For more information, please visit the RPU-2013-0004

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information page. Written comments in this case are still being accepted by the Board using this electronic comment form, or email customer@iub.iowa.gov, or sent by mail to the Iowa Utilities Board, Executive Secretary, Docket No. RPU-2013-0004, 1375 E. Court Ave., RM 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

Iowa Utilities Board Live Video Streaming Available The Board provides live online video streaming of most its hearing room events. To access the Board's hearing calendar and schedule of upcoming live video streaming events, click on the IUB LIVE BROADCAST blue button located near the top-right corner of the Board's Home Page.

Program Assists Consumers who are Deaf-Blind The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program may offer solutions to consumers who cannot use communication tools such as the telephone or computer because of combined vision and hearing loss. Now in its second year, the program continues to provide communication technology, assessment, and training to eligible individuals. lowa's <code>iowaCanConnect</code> is a statewide pilot program of the lowa Utilities Board and the lowa Department for the Blind, which is administered together with Telecommunications Access lowa, the lowa Equipment Distribution Program. To apply or learn more, visit iowaCanConnect.

Iowa Utilities Board-Office of Consumer Advocate LEED® Platinum Building Earlier this year, the lowa Utilities Board and Office of Consumer Advocate building received LEED® Platinum status. The highly energy-efficient building houses more than 90 employees of the two agencies. The facility is modeled to consume 63 percent less energy than a typical office building of similar size that is compliant with the lowa Energy Code. For more information, please visit the IUB Building Informational page.

Iowa Seeks to Help Address Dropped Calls in Nation's Rural Areas The Iowa Utilities Board continues to be actively engaged in discussions with the Federal Communications Commission to help resolve ongoing telephone call termination issues. In response to the growing problem, the FCC's Rural Call Completion Task Force established an email box for rural providers to alert the FCC about call completion problems, and created a consumer web site to file complaints with the FCC.

Alliant/Interstate Power and Light Company Proposed Natural Gas Generation Plant On November 14, 2012, Interstate Power and Light Company, an Alliant Energy Company subsidiary, filed requests seeking lowa Utilities Board approval of a generating certificate and advance ratemaking principles for its proposed 650-megawatt natural gas-fired electric generation facility in Marshall County. For more information, review the documents in Docket No. GCU-2012-0001 and Docket No. RPU-2012-0003 on the Board's electronic filing system. To file written public comments, please use the electronic comment form, or email to customer@iub.iowa.gov, or mail to the lowa Utilities Board, Executive Secretary, Docket Nos. GCU-2012-0001 and RPU-2012-0003, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Rm. 69, Des Moines, lowa 50319-0069.

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