





**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

Purchase of Big Horn Basin Oil and Natural Gas Production Assets

On May 1, 2006, MDU Resources Group, Inc. (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing the purchase of Big Horn Basin oil and natural gas production assets. A copy of the press release is incorporated by reference herein and is attached as Exhibit 99.

Earnings per Common Share Guidance

In anticipation of meetings with members of the investment community, the Company has reaffirmed, as of May 1, 2006, its prior guidance, set forth in the Company’s Form 8-K filed April 24, 2006, that earnings per common share for 2006, diluted, are projected in the range of \$2.15 to \$2.35.

The reaffirmation of earnings per share is based on the key strategies, projections and assumptions set forth in the April 24, 2006, Form 8-K, to which there have been no material changes since the filing of the April 24, 2006, Form 8-K, and which are incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-looking Statements

The foregoing earnings per share guidance for 2006 constitutes a forward-looking statement on behalf of the Company, within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Although the Company believes that its expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results may differ materially. For a discussion of the important factors that could cause actual results to differ, reference is made to Item 1A - Risk Factors in the Company’s most recent Form 10-K, and to the Company’s above Form 8-K, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

Date May 1, 2006

By /s/ Doran N. Schwartz

Doran N. Schwartz

Vice President and

Chief Accounting Officer

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit Number

Description of Exhibit

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Press release issued May 1, 2006