

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL)
IMPROVEMENT ADJUSTMENT)
)
)**

**ORDER GRANTING
JOINT MOTION
FOR APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

EL15-008**

On February 13, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application of Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) for Approval of its 2015 Environmental Improvement Adjustment (EIA). BHP is proposing to include costs related to the Wyodak Mercury Control Project and the Wygen III CO and O2 Grid Installation. BHP proposes a June 1, 2015, effective date. Approximately 66,000 South Dakota retail customers are affected by the EIA rate change. The annual net increase in the cost of service as proposed by BHP is approximately \$161,000. The average bill impact for a typical residential electric customer using 650 kWh is approximately an increase of \$0.08 per month or 0.08%.

On February 19, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 6, 2015, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 and SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100; and ARSD 20:10:01:19.

On March 3, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee. On May 19, 2015, a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Settlement Stipulation, and Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation were filed with the Commission. On May 20, 2015, BHP filed a Revised Exhibit 4. On May 27, 2015, BHP filed a revised cost adjustment summary tariff page.

The revised tariff sheet attached to the Settlement Stipulation effective for service rendered on and after June 1, 2015, is as follows:

South Dakota Electric Rate Book

Section No. 3C

Fourth Revised Sheet No. 20

Cancels Third Revised Sheet No. 20

The following revised tariff sheet submitted by BHP in a compliance filing on May 27, 2015, is effective for service rendered on and after June 1, 2015:

South Dakota Electric Rate Book

Section No. 3C

Fifteenth Revised Sheet No. 11

Cancels Fourteenth Revised Sheet No. 11

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 26, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of the Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that the aforementioned tariff sheets are approved with an effective date of June 1, 2015.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 29th day of May, 2015.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: _____

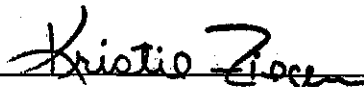
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(OFFICIAL SEAL)

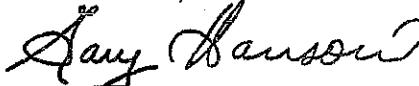
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



CHRIS NELSON, Chairman



KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner



GARY HANSON, Commissioner