

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF) OF 2015 VEGETATION
THE 2015 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT REPORT) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
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EL15-051

On December 31, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP), for approval of its 2015 Vegetation Management Report, in accordance with the Settlement Stipulation in Docket EL12-061. BHP requests an order from the Commission approving the vegetation management activities from December 2014 through November 2015, and the Vegetation Management Regulatory Asset balance as of November 30, 2015, subject to the condition that such approval shall not preclude Commission review of the project, including project and cost management, accounting data and methods, and the resulting balance in the regulatory asset, for prudence and reasonableness for rate recovery in any determination of rates, including both rate filings by BHP and rate reviews initiated by the Commission.

On January 7, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 22, 2016, 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 Chapter 49-34A.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 2, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Following a lengthy discussion with BHP, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the December 2014 through November 2015 vegetation management activities and the Vegetation Management Regulatory Asset balance as of November 30, 2015, subject to the condition that such approval shall not preclude Commission review of the project, including project and cost management, accounting data and methods, and the resulting balance in the regulatory asset, for prudence and reasonableness for rate recovery in any determination of rates, including both rate filings by BHP and rate reviews initiated by the Commission. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP's vegetation management activities from December 2014 through November 2015 and the Vegetation Management Regulatory Asset balance as of November 30, 2015, are hereby approved, subject to the condition that that such approval shall not preclude Commission review of the project, including project and cost management, accounting data and methods, and the resulting balance in the regulatory asset, for prudence and reasonableness for rate recovery in any determination of rates, including both rate filings by BHP and rate reviews initiated by the Commission.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11th day of August, 2016.

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: <u>Karen E. Cromer</u>
Date: <u>8/11/16</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner