

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR)
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC)
RATES)
)
)**

**ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE

EL14-026**

On March 31, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for Authority to Increase Its Electric Rates (Application) filed by Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory by approximately \$14.6 million annually or approximately 9.27% based on BHP's test year ending September 30, 2013. BHP states a typical residential electric customer using 650 kWh per month would see an increase of \$10.91 per month. The proposed changes may potentially affect approximately 65,500 customers in BHP's South Dakota service territory. The proposed increase would be effective no earlier than October 1, 2014. On April 3, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of June 6, 2014, to interested individuals and entities. As of the date of this order, ten comments and responses from Commissioners had been filed. On April 11, 2014, BHP filed revised pages of Exhibits A, B, C, and D.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates as part of a general rate case. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 15, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. In accordance with Staff's recommendation, the Commission voted unanimously to assess BHP a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 up to the statutory limit of \$250,000 for expenses related to the general rate case. It is therefore

ORDERED, that BHP shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission for actual expenses incurred.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of April, 2014.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u>Joy Lashley</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4.17.14</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner