

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DOCKET No. EL 14-026

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

RESPONSE TO BLACK HILLS POWER,  
INC.'S OBJECTION TO DAKOTA  
RURAL ACTION, INC.'S PETITION  
TO INTERVENE

Dakota Rural Action, Inc., by and through its attorney, Caitlin F. Collier, hereby submits its response to Black Hills Power's Objections to Dakota Rural Action, Inc.'s Petition to Intervene:

In support of the original petition, Dakota Rural Action, Inc. states and alleges:

1. Dakota Rural Action, Incorporated, is the official name of the organization; however, the lack of inclusion of "INC" is not sufficient reason under ARSD 20:10:01:15.3 to deny the Petition.
2. A Notice of Appearance by attorney Caitlin Collier of Vermillion, South Dakota, is being filed contemporaneously with this response.
3. Dakota Rural Action, Inc., maintains an office in Rapid City, South Dakota, at 518 6th Street #6. The rent paid for this office includes utility costs, including electricity. Dakota Rural Action, Inc., as a business entity would thus be likely to be directly impacted. It is reasonable to assume rent will be impacted by the increase in cost of electricity requested by Black Hills Power. As a small organization, such an increase in cost can and will be burdensome.

It is clear and likely that any increase in the cost of electricity will affect, directly and indirectly, any organization, group, or individual doing business or living within the boundaries of Black Hills Power resulting in an increased cost of living and doing business.


4. Dakota Rural Action, Inc., has submitted evidence showing our members' direct interest; see Confidential Filing.
5. Dakota Rural Action, Inc., believes and asserts that the given reasons for intervention in the original petition meet the requirements of ARSD 20:10:01:15.5.
6. Finally, Black Hills Power, Inc., has unfairly and irrationally held Dakota Rural Action, Inc., to a different standard than for the Industrial Intervenors, whose only given reason for intervention was a higher cost of business, which in this case is an interest 001895 to

Dakota Rural Action, Inc., and the general public in the region served by Black Hills Power, Inc., and not unique to the Industrial Intervenors. Despite that fact, Black Hills Power did not object to their Petition to Intervene.

Wherefore, Dakota Rural Action, Inc., respectfully requests the Commission grant their Petition to Intervene and allow Dakota Rural Action, Inc., to participate in this proceeding as a full party.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,



Caitlin F. Collier  
Attorney for Dakota Rural Action, Inc.  
P.O. Box 435  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
(605) 202-0281  
[collierlawoffice@gmail.com](mailto:collierlawoffice@gmail.com)

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on June 20, 2014, a copy of Dakota Rural Action Inc.'s Response to Black Hills Power, Inc.'s Objection to Dakota Rural Action's Petition to Intervene was served upon the following parties and persons by electronic mail:

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us](mailto:patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us)

Ms. Karen E. Cremer  
Staff Attorney  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[karen.cremer@state.sd.us](mailto:karen.cremer@state.sd.us)

Ms. Brittany Mehlhaff  
Staff Analyst  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[brittany.mehlhaff@state.sd.us](mailto:brittany.mehlhaff@state.sd.us)



Mr. Patrick Steffensen  
Staff Analyst  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[patrick.steffensen@state.sd.us](mailto:patrick.steffensen@state.sd.us)

Ms. Robin Meyerink  
Staff Analyst  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[robin.meyerink@state.sd.us](mailto:robin.meyerink@state.sd.us)

Mr. Eric Paulson  
Staff Analyst  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[eric.paulson@state.sd.us](mailto:eric.paulson@state.sd.us)

with copies sent to:

Mr. Jon Thurber  
Manager of Regulatory Affairs  
Black Hills Power, Inc.  
[Jon.Thurber@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:Jon.Thurber@blackhillscorp.com)

Ms. Amy Koenig  
Corporate Counsel  
Black Hills Corporation  
[amy.koenig@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:amy.koenig@blackhillscorp.com)

Mr. Todd L. Brink  
Senior Counsel  
Black Hills Power, Inc.  
[Todd.brink@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:Todd.brink@blackhillscorp.com)

Mr. Lee A. Magnuson  
Lindquist & Vennum, LLP  
[lmagnuson@lindquist.com](mailto:lmagnuson@lindquist.com)