

**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 GRANTING  
INTERVENTION**

**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 on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On April 11, 2014, BHP filed revisions to certain pages originally filed in the Application. On April 16, 2014, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee. On June 6, 2014, GCC Dacotah, Inc., Pete Lien & Sons, Inc., Rushmore Forest Products, Inc., Spearfish Forest Products, Inc., Rapid City Regional Hospital, Inc., and Wharf Resources (U.S.A.), Inc. (collectively, Black Hills Industrial Intervenors or BHII) filed a Petition to Intervene. On June 6, 2014, Dakota Rural Action (DRA) also filed a Petition to Intervene. On June 18, 2014, BHP filed its Objection to Intervention Petition of Dakota Rural Action and its Response to Intervention Petition of Black Hills Industrial Intervenors. On June 20, 2014, DRA filed a Notice of Appearance of Attorney for Dakota Rural Action (Notice of Appearance) and a Response to Black Hills Power Inc.'s Objection to Dakota Rural Action, Inc.'s Petition to Intervene, including the attachment to paragraph 4 thereof (Response).

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13, 20:10:01:15.02 through 20:10:01:15.05.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 24, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. BHP objected to DRA's intervention and also requested that, if the Commission did grant intervention to DRA, the order granting intervention limit the issues to be advocated and considered in the case to the rate case issues raised by BHP's Application. Finding that the Petition to Intervene of Black Hills Industrial Intervenors demonstrated good cause to grant intervention, the Commission voted unanimously to grant intervention to Black Hills Industrial Intervenors. Finding that the Petition to Intervene of Dakota Rural Action, considered together with the Notice of Appearance and Response, demonstrated sufficient interest to justify intervention, the Commission voted unanimously to grant intervention to DRA, subject to the conditions that DRA shall file an affidavit attesting to the DRA members who are customers of BHP and that the issues to be considered in the docket shall be subject to normal standards of relevancy and scope applicable to rate cases.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the petition to intervene of Black Hills Industrial Intervenors is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that Dakota Rural Action's Petition to Intervene is granted, subject to the conditions that DRA file an affidavit attesting to the DRA members who are customers of BHP and that the issues to be considered in the docket shall be subject to normal standards of relevancy and scope applicable to rate cases.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 26th day of June, 2014.

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.	
By:	<u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date:	<u>6.26.14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner