

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

=====

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION EL14-026
OF BLACK HILLS POWER, INC., FOR
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC
RATES

=====

Transcript of Proceedings
January 27 & 28, 2015

Volume II of II
January 28, 2015
CONFIDENTIAL VERSION

=====

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CHRIS NELSON, CHAIRMAN
KRISTIE FIEGEN, VICE CHAIRMAN
GARY HANSON, COMMISSIONER

COMMISSION STAFF

John Smith
Karen Cremer
Greg Rislov
Tina Douglas
Katlyn Gustafson

APPEARANCES

Amy Koenig and Lee Magnuson, Black Hills Power, Inc.
Mark Moreno, Andrew Moratzka, and Chad Marriott, Industrial
Interveners
Caitlin Collier, Dakota Rural Action
Karen Cremer, Public Utilities Commission Staff

Reported By Cheri McComsey Wittler, RPR, CRR

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, held in the
above-entitled matter, at the Joe Foss Building,
Matthews Training Center, 523 East Capitol Avenue,
Pierre, South Dakota, on the 28th day of January, 2015,
commencing at 8 o'clock a.m.

= = = = =

1 of them.

2 We have two Motions For Approval of Settlement
3 Stipulation, and we have the Motion of the Industrial
4 Interveners for a briefing schedule.

5 Commissioners, how do you want to handle --
6 which ones of those do you want to deal with?

7 I think one issue we need to know up front --
8 and I'm assuming I know the answer, but do you intend to
9 take this under advisement, or do you intend to take
10 action today?

11 CHAIRMAN NELSON: Normally I'm the guy who wants
12 to take action, but in this case I would take it under
13 advisement.

14 MR. SMITH: That appears to be a consensus of
15 the Commission.

16 My assumption then is that the two motions for
17 Settlement Stipulation approval will be delayed, action
18 on those, until a subsequent meeting of the Commission;
19 is that correct?

20 CHAIRMAN NELSON: Correct.

21 MR. SMITH: Okay. So let's turn to a Motion for
22 a briefing schedule.

23 And I guess question one is does the Commission
24 want posthearing briefing?

25 My assumption is yes, but I -- go ahead and

1 comment.

2 CHAIRMAN NELSON: My response to that would be
3 yes. And if I might just be a little proactive, you
4 know, I read your Motion. I'm not sure that we can live
5 with the schedule, however. You know, we need to have a
6 decision by the end of March.

7 I am looking at a Commission meeting that is
8 already scheduled for March 17 that might be a great time
9 for us to deal with this issue, and so a schedule that
10 would accommodate that meeting would be something that I
11 would support.

12 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And, Mr. Chairman, when
13 you say "decision by the end of March" you also mean that
14 our Order has to be written and filed. Because,
15 otherwise, the interim rates -- we have some issues with
16 interim rates.

17 MR. SMITH: Our statutory deadline is March 31.
18 So it's one year after the -- so we've got to be -- the
19 decision has to be out by then.

20 So just thoughts of the parties on what you'd
21 like to see in terms of a briefing schedule.

22 MR. MORATZKA: Could we perhaps modify the
23 Motion and maybe toss that out for the parties'
24 discussion?

25 MR. SMITH: Sure.