

DOCKET NO. _____

In the Matter of _____

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY _____

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC _____

ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR APPROVAL _____

OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE _____

TERRITORY AGREEMENT WITH _____

BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT _____

COMPANY _____


Public Utilities Commission of the State of South Dakota

DATE	MEMORANDA
2/22 01	Filed and docketed;
3/1 01	Weekly filings;
4/24 01	Order Granting Approval of Electric Service Territory Agreement;
4/24 01	Docket Closed.

EL01-004



**West River Electric
Association, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

PO Box 412
Exit 109 & I-90
Wall, SD 57790-0412
Telephone: (605) 279-2135
Toll Free: 1-888-279-2135

PO Box 3486
3250 E. Hwy. 44
Rapid City, SD 57709-3486
Telephone: (605) 393-1500
Toll Free: 1-888-393-1500

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2001

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

February 20, 2001

Martin Bettman
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Mr. Bettman:

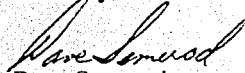
This letter is to inform you of a trade agreement that was reached between West River Electric Association (WREA) and Black Hills Power and Light (BHP&L). In the agreement WREA authorized BHP&L to serve two "frozen customers" in exchange for kilowatt-hours and BHP&L authorized WREA to serve one "frozen customer" in exchange for kilowatt-hours.

The two accounts from WREA transferred to BHP&L were Sieveke Taxidermy at 2940 North Haines in Rapid City and Lee's Towing & Repair at 3046 North Haines in Rapid City. Gerald Sieveke is the owner of both properties. The transfer for these two accounts took place on April 3rd and 4th, 2000.

The one account from BHP&L transferred to WREA was Discount Lumber (Knecht Home Center) at 2211 East Highway 44 in Rapid City. The transfer of this account took place on December 6th, 2000.

Enclosed are copies of the consent forms signed by the property owners involved. If you have any questions regarding this trade please contact me at our Rapid City office.

Sincerely,


Dave Semerad
Branch Manager

DS/tal

Encl.

CC: Stuart Wevik, BHP&L

Mr. Stuart Wevik
Black Hills Power & Light
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Stuart,

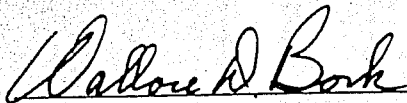
We hereby give consent to Black Hills Power & Light (BHP) to release the following account which is currently classified as a "frozen customer" account in West River Electric Association (WREA) service territory:

Discount Lumber 2211 E. Hwy. 44 Rapid City, SD

Discount Lumber is a division of Knecht Home Center, Inc.

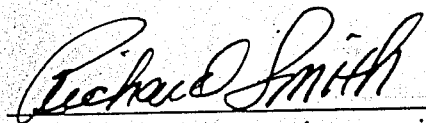
Once details of the transaction are finalized between WREA and BHP, we understand that we will receive additional communication regarding specifics of this transfer, which will include the date and approximate time when service from WREA will begin.

Sincerely,



Wallace Bork (consent signature)
General Manager, Knecht Home Center, Inc.

10-26-00
Date



Richard Smith (consent signature)
Manager, Discount Lumber

10-28-00
Date

March 27, 2000

Mr. Dave Semerad
West River Electric Assoc.
3250 E. Hwy 44
Rapid City, SD 57703

Dear Dave,

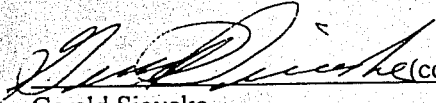
I hereby give my consent to West River Electric Association (WREA) to release the following accounts on property owned by me, which are currently classified as "frozen customer" accounts in Black Hills Power and Light (BHP) service territory:

Sieveke Taxidermy 2940 N. Haines Rapid City, SD

Lee's Towing & Repair 3046 N. Haines Rapid City, SD

Once details of the transaction are finalized between WREA and BHP, I understand that I will receive additional communication regarding specifics of this transfer, which will include the date and approximate time when service from BHP will begin.

Sincerely,

 (consent signature)
Gerald Sieveke

cc: Stuart Wevik - - BHP&L

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

WEEKLY FILINGS

For the Period of February 22, 2001 through February 28, 2001

If you need a complete copy of a filing faxed, overnight expressed, or mailed to you, please contact Delaine Kolbo within five business days of this filing. Phone: 605-773-3705 Fax: 605-773-3809

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS

CT01-007 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by Agnes Huebner, Pierre, South Dakota, against Talk.com Holding Corp. d/b/a The Phone Company Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.

The complainant indicates that her service was switched through deceptive tactics in October 2000. The complainant is seeking \$1000.00 as a penalty against the company to prevent them from doing this to others.

Staff Analyst: Charlene Lund
Staff Attorney: Karen Cremer
Date Docketed: 02/27/01
Intervention Deadline: N/A

CT01-008 In the Matter of the Complaint filed by David and Rhonda Schwietert, Rapid City, South Dakota, against Broadwing Telecommunications, Inc. and PowerNet Global Communications Regarding Unauthorized Switching of Services.

The Complainants claim that their telecommunications services were switched without authorization. During an informal investigation of this complaint, neither PowerNet Global Communications nor Broadwing Telecommunications could provide authorization of services. Neither company accepts responsibility for the switch. The Complainants are requesting \$1000 plus expenses from each company.

Staff Analyst: Leni Healy
Staff Attorney: Kelly Frazier
Date Docketed: 02/28/01
Intervention Deadline: N/A

ELECTRIC

EL01-004 In the Matter of the Filing by West River Electric Association, Inc. for Approval of an Electric Service Territory Agreement with Black Hills Power & Light Company.

to an Interconnection Agreement between Qwest Corporation (Qwest) and Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) was filed with the Commission for approval. According to the parties the Amendment is for the states of Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. It is an amendment to the interconnection agreement approved by the Commission effective November 21, 1997 in Docket No. TC97-149. The Amendment addresses Sprint's desire to offer a new Dial IP product in the aforementioned states. Any party wishing to comment on the agreement may do so by filing written comments with the Commission and the parties to the agreement no later than March 15, 2001. Parties to the agreement may file written responses to the comments no later than twenty days after the service of the initial comments.

Staff Attorney: Kelly D. Frazier
Date Docketed: 02/23/01
Initial Comments Due: 03/15/01

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You may subscribe or unsubscribe to the PUC mailing lists at <http://www.state.sd.us/puc/>**

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY WEST)	ORDER GRANTING
RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR)	APPROVAL OF ELECTRIC
APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE)	SERVICE TERRITORY
TERRITORY AGREEMENT WITH BLACK)	AGREEMENT
HILLS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)	EL01-004

On February 22, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing by West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA) for approval of an electric service territory agreement. The agreement is between Black Hills Power & Light Company (BHP&L) and WREA. The application states that a trade agreement was reached between WREA and BHP&L wherein WREA authorized BHP&L to serve two "frozen customers" in exchange for kilowatt-hours and BHP&L authorized WREA to serve one "frozen customer" in exchange for kilowatt-hours. Both companies believe this agreement will improve future reliability while eliminating duplication of facilities. The affected customers agreed to the exchange and signed a consent form so stating.

The specifics related to the accounts are:

WREA "frozen customers" transferred to BHP&L:

Gerald Sieveke Account #1327247701
(Sieveke Taxidermy)

Lee Koenen Account #1327247601
(Lee's Towing)

BHP&L "frozen customer" transferred to WREA:

Knecht Home Center Account #10 01 29310 02
(Discount Lumber fka Big K Lumber Account #11 18 2020 1)

On April 17, 2001, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the request for approval of the exchange. Commission Staff recommended approval.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the release of frozen customers in the service territory will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of BHP&L and WREA. The Commission therefore concludes that the release of frozen customers in the service territory is in the public interest and it shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an electric service territory agreement to release frozen customers in the service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April, 2001.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Nelsine Kelbo

Date: 4/24/01

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner