



# H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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September 30, 2009

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Deer Creek Station EL 08-034

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

As the General Manager of H-D Electric Cooperative, a Class D member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, I am writing to express my full support for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Deer Creek Station.

H-D Electric is a member-owned cooperative serving the rural areas of Deuel, Hamlin and a portion of Northeast Brookings counties as well as a few services located in the adjacent counties. H-D Electric has over 2700 members and serves 3400 meters. The cooperative members have invested in a total plant value of \$23.4 million including over 1500 miles of line.

A reliable energy source is important to today's electric cooperative members just as it was over 60 years ago when H-D Electric's founding members formed the Cooperative. In 2008, H-D Electric members required 88,465,000 kilowatt-hours of energy. According to the H-D Electric power requirements studies this amount of energy is expected to continue to increase over the next few years. I believe the Deer Creek station will be an important component to serve the local H-D Electric members in their future reliable energy needs.

The jobs to construct and operate the Deer Creek station are an additional important component of the project to the H-D Electric service territory. The H-D Electrical service territory is no different than other areas where good jobs fuel the local economies and school districts. I certainly expect that some local families will benefit from construction and also permanent positions available at the plant as well as the overall economic impact from the increased activity.

I hope that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will approve Basin Electric's Application to build the Deer Creek Station project.

Sincerely,

Matt Hotzler  
General Manager

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*The power of human connections*

