




West River Electric Association, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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June 10, 2011

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501-5070

RE: Joint Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception submitted by West River Electric Association (WREA) and Black Hills Power (BHP)

Dear Patricia:

WREA and BHP respectfully submit this joint request to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The joint request would allow for BHP to provide electric service to a City of Rapid City water reservoir located in WREA territory. This authorization by WREA is given with the understanding that if at some time in the future WREA has facilities near this location and choose to take over this service, WREA can purchase BHP facilities at their depreciated value and no KWH's would be exchanged for this service. The reservoir is located in Section 23, T2N, R7E, Pennington County, whose location is shown on the attached map.

BHP has a distribution line in close proximity to the water reservoir. WREA's nearest distribution facilities are several hundred feet away and would require a significant investment for the City of Rapid City to procure electric service from WREA.

By allowing BHP to provide service to this City of Rapid City water reservoir, unnecessary duplication of facilities would be avoided.

Richard Johnson, WREA CEO/ General Manager, and Alan Van Bochove, BHP's construction Service Supervisor, jointly submit this request for the Commission's consideration. The following information is enclosed for your review:

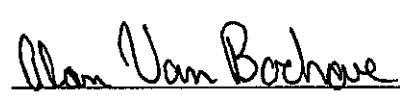
- A map showing details of the area
- WREA's letter to BHP authorizing the provision of the service agreement contingent on the Commission's ruling
- A letter of consent from the City of Rapid City

If you require additional information or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Signature 6-10-11
Date

Richard Johnson
CEO-General Manager
West River Electric Association


Signature 6/13/11
Date

Alan Van Bochove
Construction Services Supervisor
Black Hills Power

Encl.
RJ:bj
AVB:bj