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South Dakota

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August 17, 2012

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

**Re: Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. & West River Electric Association, Inc. –
Verification of Shared Electric Service Territory Boundary and Updated
Mapping Data and Approval of Electric Service Territory Exceptions**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

This filing is submitted regarding the ongoing efforts of the SD PUC to verify electric territory mapping data for conversion to electronic format and use in a Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Commission Staff worked with Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Black Hills or BHEC) and West River Electric Association, Inc. (West River or WREA), jointly the Parties, on their respective territory boundary. The Parties discovered the territory line followed the county line rather than the section lines as annotated on the maps currently maintained by the PUC. As such, staff updated the mapping information reflecting the changes in order to accurately reflect the electric service territory boundary served by the Parties; Exhibit B, pages 4, 5, and 6 reflect the corrections.

During the process, the companies and Commission Staff identified customers currently served by the Parties in each other's territory. The accompanying mapping data identifies the exceptions served by the Parties in opposing territories on Exhibit B, pages 1 and 2.

Included as part of this filing please find:

- 1) A contract signed by the Parties confirming service territory,
- 2) A legal description of the shared boundary with exceptions, and
- 3) Updated territory maps.

Commission Staff requests the Commission open a docket and approve this agreement with accompanying mapping data and the coinciding exceptions identified on said mapping data.

Sincerely,

Ross Pedersen