



Chris Nelson, Chair
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chair
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
www.puc.sd.gov

Capitol Office
(605) 773-3201
1-866-757-6031 fax

Grain Warehouse
(605) 773-5280
(605) 773-3225 fax

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

May 7, 2012

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

**Re: EL12-029 - In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc.
for Approval of its Environmental Improvement Adjustment**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

On April 16, 2012, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP) filed for Commission approval of its revised Environmental Improvement Adjustment (EIA). This application provides the second year revenue requirement and customer rates for the environmental improvements made to the Wyodak Power Plant approved in EL11-001, along with the project cost true-up and an annual true-up. The Company proposes a June 1, 2012, effective date.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, Staff asks the Commission to assess a regulatory assessment fee in this docket filing. The statutory amount designated for a filing made pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-97 to 49-34A-100 is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The filing fee will account for costs associated in Staff's general review of the petition. Staff asks that the filing fee relate back to the initial filing date to account for Staff time already dedicated to this docket.

In accordance with South Dakota statute controlling this matter, Staff seeks Commission approval of the forgoing action on Commission Docket EL12-029.

Sincerely,

Ryan Soye