

BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS)
POWER, INC. FOR APPROVAL)
TO EXTEND THE FILING DATE) Docket EL 15-
OF ITS 2015 VEGETATION)
MANAGEMENT REPORT)
PERTAINING TO THE 2016-2018)
BUDGET)
)**

Black Hills Power, Inc. (“Black Hills Power” or “Company”), a South Dakota corporation, respectfully requests approval from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) for an extension until March 31, 2016, to update the vegetation management budget for 2016 through 2018 based on actual progress to date.

The Commission approved the establishment of the Vegetation Management Regulatory Asset (“VMRA”) for Black Hills Power in Docket EL12-061. Per the associated stipulation (“Stipulation”), Black Hills Power is required to provide an annual report to demonstrate the actual vegetation management costs incurred. The report will outline the progress made on the overall five year plan and update the forecast for the remaining years based on actual progress to date.

Black Hills Power will report on the actual vegetation management activities from December 2014 through November 2015, and the VMRA balance as of November 30, 2015, in its 2015 Vegetation Management Report by December 31, 2015. The report will demonstrate the actual vegetation management costs incurred and outline the progress made on the overall five year plan.

Black Hills Power requests an extension to provide the vegetation management forecast for 2016 through 2018. The extension is necessary to allow Black Hills Power

additional time to evaluate the activities necessary to achieve our goal of trimming the entire distribution system during the five year plan period. The Company will need to devote more resources to achieve a five year trim cycle and is coordinating with outside contractors to determine the availability of vegetation management crews and the associated cost to complete the remaining work. Under the terms of the Stipulation, the Company is required to file the forecast for the remaining years by December 31, 2015.

Copies of all notices, other correspondence and all inquiries concerning this

Application should be sent to:

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WHEREFORE, Black Hills Power respectfully requests that the Commission issue an order approving an extension until March 31, 2016, to update the vegetation management budget for 2016 through 2018.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2015.

BLACK HILLS POWER, INC.

By: 

Jon Thurber
Manager, Regulatory Services

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

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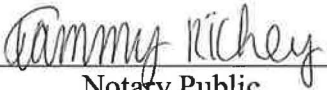
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF PENNINGTON) SS:

I, Jon Thurber, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and say that I am Manager, Regulatory Services for Black Hills Power, Inc., Applicant in the foregoing Application; that I have read such Application; and that the facts set forth therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



Jon Thurber
Manager, Regulatory Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of December, 2015.



Notary Public

(SEAL)



My commission expires: 9/14/2021