

BLACK HILLS POWER, INC.

SD PUC DOCKET: EL16-007

Economic Development Plan

REQUEST DATE : March 10, 2016

RESPONSE DATE : March 24, 2016

REQUESTING PARTY: SDPUC Staff

SDPUC Request No. 1.1:

Provide a brief explanation on the mission or purpose underlying each Economic Development Membership and Community Sponsorship that Black Hills Energy includes in the 2016 budget.

Response to SDPUC Request No. 1.1:

Black Hills Energy's objective is to participate, lead and partner in key areas that will have a direct impact in growing our communities with measurements from partnering organizations showing business and employment growth.

The following contains the mission or purpose for each organization or sponsorship that Black Hills Energy will pursue membership or sponsorship during 2016:

Belle Fourche Economic Development: *To works in concert with the City of Belle Fourche, Butte County and the Belle Fourche School district to proactively engage in community and economic development ventures dedicated to improve the quality of life for Belle Fourche area residents.*

Black Hills Vision: *To invest in the development of job creation and promote an opportunity environment for economic development in the Black Hills region.*
Belle Fourche Development Corp:

Black Hills Badlands & Lakes: *To promote the region as an all-season travel destination for the tourism industry in western South Dakota.*

Black Hills Business Council: *To develop, advance and communicate regional issues which foster and promote greater diversity and strength within the Black Hills economy.*

Black Hills Community Economic Development Corp: *To working together in strengthening the local economic climate.*

Custer Economic Development Corp: *To Drive Community and Economic Development Growth. This is achieved through the Creating, Attracting, Retaining, and Expanding local business.*

Destination Rapid City: *To create, sustain and maintain a vibrant City Center which provides a cultural and recreation space for the enjoyment and use of the community and its visitors.*

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Lead/Deadwood Economic Development Corp: *To support the Lead and Deadwood area economic development activities, plus relocation, expansion and small business loans.*

Heart of the Black Hills Economic Development Corp.: *To develop and expand businesses and service opportunities for the community of Hill City.*

Rapid City Area Economic Development Corp.: *To improve the quality of life and increase personal income levels in the greater Rapid City area by fostering a vital business climate which provides quality new jobs, attracts new business, helps existing businesses, and promotes entrepreneurship.*

Southern Hills Economic Development Corp: *To promote economic interest, development and quality of live in the Southern Hills of South Dakota. Our objectives are 1) To grow the local economy; and 2) To expand employment opportunities.*

South Dakota Chamber Economic Development Council: *To promote educational and professional growth of its members in management techniques and principles of economic, industrial, and community development.*

South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity (SD CEO): *To support three business and entrepreneur conference events for 2016. The events include:*

- 1. Celebrating Women in Business*
- 2. Women's Business Conference*
- 3. Make Energy Make Cents Workshop*

Spearfish Economic Development Corp: *To improve lives by creating economic opportunities for our community and its citizens.*

Sturgis Economic Development Corp: *To actively pursue economic development by assisting new or expanding business and industry in Sturgis and the greater Meade County area.*

SDGOED Annual Conference: *– To provide Utility sponsorship for Community of the Year Awards. The GOED also works to expand primary job opportunities for all South Dakotans. They strive to retain and expand existing businesses, foster new businesses, facilitate business succession and recruit out-of-state businesses. The office works closely with community economic development corporations to expand and diversify the state's industry and economy. Additionally, the GOED administers a variety of financing opportunities available to new and existing businesses.*