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**West River Electric
Association, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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March 7, 2016

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 Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BHEC) and West River Electric Association, Inc. (WREA)

Dear Patricia,

BHEC and WREA 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 BHEC to provide electric service to Jodie Landwehr's residence 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 chooses to take over this service, WREA can purchase BHEC facilities at their depreciated value and no KWH's would be exchanged for this service. The service would be located in the SE 1/4, Section 15, T01S, R09E, Pennington County, whose location is shown on the attached map.

BHEC has a distribution line in close proximity to the proposed service. WREA's nearest distribution facility is two miles away and would require a significant investment for Jodie Landwehr to procure electric service from WREA.

By allowing BHEC to provide service to this residence, unnecessary duplication of facilities would be avoided.

Jesse Sorenson, BHEC System Coordinator and Richard Johnson, WREA CEO/ General Manager 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 BHEC authorizing the provision of the service agreement contingent of Commission's ruling.
- A letter of consent from Jodie Landwehr

Mission Statement:

West River Electric Association, Inc. shall strive to continually improve customer service and satisfaction by providing safe, reliable, efficient and reasonably priced electricity and services, while leading in the development of our community for the well being of our members.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Sorenson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jesse Sorenson

System Coordinator

Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Richard Johnson

CEO/ General Manager

West River Electric Association, Inc.