



February 15, 2018

Nick Gardner, Vice President
Black Hills Energy SD Electric Operations
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

Dear Mr. Gardner:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Sturgis Economic Development Corp (SEDC), I would like to thank you for Black Hills Energy's on-going support of the initiatives of the Sturgis Economic Development Corp.

Over the past 40 years, as SEDC continued to develop the state's 2nd SD Certified Ready Site industrial park, Black Hills Energy has been an exceptional partner. From assisting with infrastructure development to meeting and hosting prospects, BHE has been committed to growing our economic base. As our current industrial park nears capacity, we are actively seeking land for a new business park. An important driver for that process is to acquire land located within Black Hills Energy's service territory.

Mutch Usera is a past SEDC board member; Ken Meirose is a current SEDC board member. They are, and have been, valued participants in all phases of our board decisions by providing meaningful input and active participation, including serving on our Property Committee.

Mutch always looks out for our best interest, and supports us with both financial and mentoring assistance. He has twice served as facilitator of our annual board retreat, and financially supports our membership meetings. He has assisted us in the SHOT Show trade booth, provided financial support which allowed us to attend several trade conferences as part of the Black Hills Corporation booth, and provided financial support which allowed us to attend the 2017 International Economic Development Council's conference in Toronto, Canada to receive our gold award for Excellence in Economic Development.

Black Hills Energy is a recognized community leader. Your support of economic development in Sturgis and Meade County has been instrumental in our area's growth. We are proud to partner with you, and look forward to continuing that relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Kurtenbach".

Pat Kurtenbach
President

BLACK HILLS **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



February 15, 2018

Nick Gardner, Vice President
Black Hills Energy South Dakota Electric Operations
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

Dear Mr. Gardner,

On behalf of Black Hills Community Economic Development and the Rushmore Region Alliance, we are writing to thank you for the support of Black Hills Energy in our regional economic development efforts. Over the last year, Black Hills Energy's Community Affairs & Economic Development Program has had a significant impact upon these efforts.


Black Hills Energy's grant program allowed Black Hills Community Economic Development's Rushmore Region Alliance committee to take our region's economic development marketing to a new level to showcase our assets to potential new businesses through the redevelopment of our website.

In addition, Black Hills Energy's financial support has made possible the upcoming Adv Advantage economic development capacity building training—*Rushmore Region: Planning Today for Tomorrow's Growth*. This workshop will provide on-site customized training for regional leaders and economic development professionals on the topics of marketing and site selection.

Finally, this past year, the Rushmore Region Alliance awarded its first-ever *Economic Development Partner of the Year Award* to Mutch Usera. Mutch's involvement and support has contributed to each individual community throughout the Black Hills, but has also contributed to the strong partnership among the region's economic development professionals through the Rushmore Region Alliance.

We are truly thankful for the support of Black Hills Energy in our efforts to enhance the quality of life in the Black Hills, and we look forward to a continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Ali DeMersseman, Executive Director
Black Hills Community Economic Development



Pat Kurtenbach, Chair
Rushmore Region Alliance

501 Main Street
Wall, SD 57790

February 15th, 2018

Black Hills Energy
Mr. Nick Gardner, Vice President of Electric Operations
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709

Mr. Gardner,

My name is Cheyenne McGriff, Executive Director of the Wall Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in Wall, South Dakota. Although Wall is not in Black Hills Energy's service territory, Wall has benefited from the BHE Economic Development Grant Program through our participation in the Rushmore Region Economic Development Alliance (RRA).

The RRA was created to stimulate and increase business investment in the Rushmore Region of western South Dakota, which spans nearly forty miles from north to south, encompassing 26 unique communities. Wall is lucky enough to be one of those communities.

The BHE Economic Development Grant Program has allowed the RRA to continue its pursuit of providing consulting, financial and other services to support growth and success of existing businesses, and marketing the Rushmore Region as a place to start, grow or relocate a business.

The BHE Economic Development Grant Program made a significant training opportunity possible for the Rushmore Region. Professional Business Consultant Janet Ady from Ady Advantage will be leading, "Preparing Today for Tomorrow's Growth" training in April. This training will teach participants about the business site selection process, marketing to site selectors and rural economic development. The training's goal is to educate community leaders, economic development professionals and economic development board members to better prepare and plan for growth throughout the region.

This training is a significant opportunity for the community of Wall and WEDC. Wall is a small community, less than 1,000 residents. These trainings are usually out of reach and out of budget for our community leaders. Thanks to the BHE Economic Development Grant Program, Wall City Council members, WEDC Board Members and I will have an opportunity to learn and create more opportunities for growth not only in our community, but also throughout the region.

The BHE Economic Development Grant Program has benefited my community and many others. I hope to see the program continue into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cheyenne McGriff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheyenne" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McGriff".

Cheyenne McGriff, Executive Director
Wall Economic Development Corporation



February 15, 2018

Nick Grander
Vice President of Electric Operations
Black Hills Energy
PO Box 1400
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Mr. Grander:

The Spearfish Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization with a mission to grow our community by expanding business development and job creation. Marketing is a significant component of our business recruitment and retention efforts.

In 2017, SEDC received three grants from Black Hills Energy in support of a variety of marketing initiatives. In April of last year, plans were executed for a long overdue makeover of the SEDC website and Black Hills Energy's contribution helped make this a seamless transition. Today, our website is easy-to-use, visually appealing, and clearly expresses who we are and how we serve the Spearfish community.

Also last year, SEDC received a Cooperative Marketing Grant for an advertising campaign showcasing the many benefits of living, working and operating a business in Spearfish. The most recent grant we received from Black Hills Energy was for the sponsorship of the SEDC Annual Meeting. This year we had a record turnout of nearly 300 attendees.

Black Hills Energy and its employees have supported SEDC in several ways. Mutch Usera has served on the SEDC Board of Directors for numerous years bringing his knowledge, connections, and expertise to the table as a valuable member. We sincerely appreciate the support SEDC and the Spearfish community have received from Black Hills Energy throughout the years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kory Menken", is written over the typed name and title.

Kory Menken
Executive Director
Spearfish Economic Development Corp.



"The mission of the Heart of the Hills Economic Development Corporation is to develop and expand businesses and service opportunities for the community of Hill City."

P.O. Box 1143, Hill City, SD 57745-1143

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Commerce

Brian Rupert
Web Designer/Developer

Staff

Christine VanNess
EDC Coordinator

February 15, 2018

Nick Grander
Vice President of Electric Operations
Black Hills Energy

Dear Mr. Grander:

Hill City's "Heart of the Hills" Economic Development Corp. has greatly benefited from the effort put forth by Mr. Usera and Black Hills Energy (BHE), both in time and money, in support of the Rushmore Region organization. As a very small Economic Development organization, we appreciate being part of a larger collective that can leverage area resources for the good of the entire region. Our part time staff has been able to take advantage of the knowledge of very seasoned professionals and also great training sessions sponsored in part by BHE. This helps our volunteer Board work better and smarter for the good of our community.

We are also thankful for the BHE sponsorship support that the Black Hills Film Festival in Hill City has had for the past several years. Our membership is comprised of numerous professional and business owning individuals who see the timing and opportunity of the Festival to be a definite plus to our community and economy. The attendance by filmmakers, producers, directors and over 2,000 film lovers is beneficial to our economy during the "shoulder season" for our shops, hotels and restaurants. Our members have responded enthusiastically by donating rooms, services and time to help with this event.

We look forward to 2018 as a year of progress and growth for Hill City and we thank Black Hills Energy for being a big part of that progress.

Sincerely,

Chuck Voorhees,
President
Heart of the Hills Economic Development Corp.