

BLACK HILLS POWER, INC.  
d/b/a BLACK HILLS ENERGY  
EL19-006

REQUEST DATE : 02/26/19  
RESPONSE DATE : 03/12/19  
REQUESTING PARTY: Staff

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**SDPUC Request No. 1.15:**

Refer to Exhibit D, the substation appears to be proposed to be built directly on a wetland area. Explain why the substation is located on a wetland.

- a) Did BHE do research or outreach to determine any risks to the Project, the wetland, or surrounding area? If so, please describe.

**Response to SDPUC Request No. 1.15:**

A field wetland verification was completed by HDR, Inc. of Rapid City, SD for potential wetland areas that were shown in the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) near the west end of the proposed transmission line. NWI 2, the location of the proposed substation, is currently a graveled equipment storage lot, and therefore is not a wetland. Photo documentation of NWI 2 is located in SDPUC 1.15.

Based on the current proposed location of the transmission line and structure locations, it is anticipated that any potential impacts to wetland features could be avoided with strategic placement of the transmission line poles. Black Hills Power reached out to South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks who does not anticipate that this project will have impacts to fish and wildlife resources due to the project being located in a previously disturbed area.

**Attachments:** SDPUC 1.15 Photo Documentation of NWI

**Responder:** Tim Rogers