

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

WHAT: Permit for Black Hills Energy to Construct a 0.7-mile 230 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities in Pennington County, South Dakota, within the city limits of Rapid City, South Dakota

WHEN: Monday, March 18, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. MDT

WHERE: Washington Room, Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center, 211 N. Lacrosse St., Rapid City, SD

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application to construct a 0.7-mile 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities (Project) in Pennington County, SD. The Project would include a 230/69 kV substation at the location of the former Ben French Power Plant on the northwest side of Rapid City, SD. It will also include a 230 kV transmission line from the substation running southeast approximately 0.2 miles, then east approximately 0.5 miles. The transmission line will be constructed entirely within an existing Black Hills Energy easement, and the substation will be constructed on property owned by Black Hills Energy.

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the permit Application and the Project. At the hearing, Black Hills Power Inc. dba Black Hills Energy (Applicant) will present a brief description of the Project, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Pennington County auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2019 Electric Dockets, EL19-006 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's website or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. CDT on April 8, 2019.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and

exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or ad hoc meeting of the Commission.

For approval, the Applicant must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; www.puc.sd.gov; puc@state.sd.us; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.